



International College of Dentists

Australasian Section

Newsletter

FEBRUARY ISSUE 1993



THE LATE ROBERT CECIL YORK NORTON

O.B.E., M.D.S., F.A.C.D., F.I.C.D., F.R.A.C.D.S.

1922 - 1992

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MESSAGE FROM INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT IRVING SEIGEL

I have received word from our Secretary-General that a memorial service will be held in honour of our late friend Bob Norton. His untimely death came as a great shock since we had been together just a few months ago in Portugal.

I do wish it were possible for me to attend the service but this is impossible.

I would appreciate having this message included in the service hoping that it may convey some of the feeling felt here for Bob.

With best regards to all our Australian Fellows.

"As International President of the International College of Dentists I have the sad task of attempting to express my extremely deep sorrow at the passing of my very good friend Vice-President Bob Norton. Indeed, Bob was a very good friend to all things pertaining to the College and I know I speak for all those who knew him personally as well as those who knew him only through his deeds.

My personal relationship with him began some years ago when he first assumed the position of Councillor representing Australasia to our Executive Council. Soon after that we sat on a committee together and it was then that I really came to know, respect, admire and depend on him for the support which he so freely and enthusiastically supplied. If there were one characteristic that I found most typical of him in our relationship it was this energetic enthusiasm which reached into a problem, quickly revealed its essence and provided solutions. And then there was his ability to exude a feeling of friendship; one never felt left out while in his company. I learned to rely on Bob Norton as I know so many others must have in his many activities. Another may take his position with us but no one will really take his place.

To his friends and colleagues we extend our sincere condolences. To his wife Betty and family, our love and deepest sympathy. We share in the missing."

Irving Seigel
International President

CORRECTION NOTICE

Our revered President (Syd Dobbin) is always looking to the future. However, in the last issue of the Newsletter he took this virtue too far when he announced the date for the Convocation in Melbourne as Friday 26th. March, 1993. It is, in fact, one week earlier, to wit, Friday, 19th. March, the same date as appears on the application form enclosed in the Newsletter.

It is his expressed and fervent wish that all Fellows sit down quickly and write \$55.00 (or \$110.00 with spouse) so that he can meet them personally in Melbourne to explain his time-lapse. No responsibility is taken by the Editor for missing the error during proof reading.

MEMORIAL SERVICE, UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY, 20th JANUARY, 1993.

ROBERT CECIL YORK NORTON, OBE, MDS, FACD, FICD, FRACDS.

15th. August, 1822 - 23rd. December, 1992.

A Memorial Service to honour the late Robert Norton was held in The Great Hall of the University of Sydney on Wednesday, 20th. January, 1993.

The service was conducted by the Reverend H.E. Ctercteko. Readings were by Drs. K.O. Binns and W.J. Mackie. Tributes were presented by Dr. R.M. Davidson and by the President of the International College of Dental Surgeons, Dr. Sydenham Dobbin, AM.

Dr. Dobbin said:

"I am reminded of a line in the Preface to the 34th. Edition of Voltaire's 'Candide', which asks: "How can I say with sufficient tenderness what here needs to be said?".

How can I speak of Bob Norton the achiever without speaking of Bob Norton the man, the husband, the father, the sportsman, the friend of many who were pleased to say they were a friend of his?

He was a gentleman and a gentle man. There are many who have had a word of sympathy, a word of encouragement and support in an hour of need from Bob. He always knew exactly what to say and not be intrusive.

Bob was a gregarious person who, although not known for his shyness, was well known for his ability to know and remember people by name. He could circle a room greeting everyone at a function, including strangers in the midst of the group.

I can remember him on a visit to Western Samoa, Tonga and, more recently, the Cook Islands. Here was where he really shone. His kindness when examining crippled children and his sympathy and understanding way when talking to the parents was an example from which everyone could learn.

Bob and Betty were married in November, 1947, and with this event Bob gained another right hand who supported him through those many long years of public and professional life. Betty raised the family, entertained the guests, kept notes, typed, made appointments, remembered names, arranged travel and became a very good friend to many people. Without his wife I do not know whether Robert would have been able to achieve as much as he did. I am still mystified as to how Betty found the time to become an A-Grade golfer.

Even though he was a busy man and quite often out to meetings or attending his branch practices, they must have done something right, because we all know what a close-knit, loving family the Nortons are. Son, daughter, in-laws and grandchildren are often together in a great family atmosphere.

Bob was educated at Newington College and the University of Sydney. He graduated in 1944 with blues in cricket and basketball. He became a Master of Dental Surgery in 1946. In 1948, three months after his marriage, he sailed to America and spent the year studying orthodontics. When he returned to Australia he practised with well-known specialist, Dr. Arthur Thornton Taylor. In 1952 he started his own practice which blossomed with branches in Goulburn and Wagga Wagga.

Robert Norton was Part-time Lecturer in the Faculty of Dentistry in the University of Sydney to undergraduates from 1945 to 1954 and then in post-graduate orthodontics from 1956 to 1989.

In 1949 he was elected to the New South Wales Branch of the Australian Dental Association. He was President in 1956, 1957 and 1958 and remained a Councillor until 1970.

He was elected to the Federal ADA in 1956 and stayed on Council until 1974. He was President from 1968 to 1970.

It must be remembered that anyone who becomes President of the ADA at State or Federal level serves on all committees before joining the Executive and eventually becoming President; so they have served a long, hard apprenticeship.

While on the Federal ADA he represented Australia at the Asian Pacific Dental Federation, the Federation Dentaire Internationale and in New Zealand for four sessions.

He was on the Council of the Australian Society of Orthodontists from 1950 until 1969, serving as President from 1959 to 1961. In addition he was Chairman of the ASO Foundation for Education and Research.

He was the Foundation President of the Australian Dental Research Fund Incorporated, which organisation is doing a tremendous job for dentistry. Bob also found time to be Vice-President of the Dental Health Education and Research Foundation of the University of Sydney, one of the greatest things that has happened to New South Wales' and Australian dentistry.

Of course, with his qualifications he was a foundation member of the Royal Australasian College of Dental Surgeons and its President in 1982.

Internationally he was Secretary-General of the Asian Pacific Dental Federation from 1971 to 1981. It is no exaggeration to say that this organisation would not exist had R.Y. Norton not been appointed to that position at that time.

Bob was an official delegate to the Federation Dentaire Internationale and served on numerous committees. He was a member of the National Health and Medical Research Council.

He served on the Dental Board of New South Wales from 1966 to 1990. I do not know why the Minister failed to appoint him Chairman when he had filled the position of Acting Chairman for two years.

Surprisingly, he still found time to serve the community through Rotary, Probus, and Masonic organisations. As well, he was Visiting Honorary Orthodontist to Sydney Legacy Dental Clinics from 1952 and Masonic Schools and Masonic Youth Welfare from 1962.

Internationally, Bob was still achieving. He was an early, if not a foundation member of the International College of Dentists. He was Registrar from 1982 to 1988 and President of the Section from 1988 until 1991. He was International Councillor from 1988 until the time of his death. Despite his public announcement to Betty at the Adelaide Convocation that this would be his last public office, he could not resist a challenge, and, had he lived, he would now be President-Elect of the World body and next year he would have been the second Australian to be World President of the International College of Dentists.

For all this sustained effort he was rewarded with the Order of the British Empire in 1977. In addition he was awarded Honorary Life Membership of the following organisations for his outstanding contributions to dentistry:

Australian Dental Association (NSW Branch) 1972, Korean Dental Association 1967, Taiwan Dental Association, 1970, American Dental Association 1969, Australian Society of Orthodontists, 1974, Royal Australasian College of Dental Surgeons, 1988. In addition he was awarded the FDI Merit Award in 1980 and the Fairfax Reading Memorial Prize in 1984.

A truly magnificent career. Of course, such a great administrator did at times meet opposition and upsets; but he was not a "...don't get mad - get even!" man. He simply turned the other cheek and went about achieving what he wanted in another way. I have never heard him speak ill of anyone.

Robert Cecil York Norton had one weakness - watching sunsets. Whether it was across Clareville from their lovely home or on the sands at Raratonga, there he sat, with a beer in his hands, until the last rays had slipped out of the sky and dark gathered him.

Bob has gone to his last sunset. We shall always remember him, and, at the same time, our prayers and hands of support go out to Betty and her family. Her wide circle of friends will make sure she is never lonely."

The Memorial Service concluded with the singing of the hymn "Praise My Soul, King of Heaven" by the mourners who had come from interstate as well as metropolitan and country areas to fill the majestic Great Hall.

INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE SPONSORED COURSES

The College regularly sponsors courses for dentists in the various States and Territories.

Fellows will be aware of the success of the course in Darwin and how they drove through sleet and snow over Tasmania's icy roads to hear Fellow David Southan.

It is now New South Wales' turn and this opportunity is being offered to Fellows to have the first bite of the cherry before it is offered to the profession at large.

The topical subject is:

"INFECTION CONTROL AND CLINICAL EFFICIENCY IN YOUR DENTAL PRACTICE - YES, IT IS POSSIBLE."

All registered dentists (with one dental chairside assistant) are to be invited to attend the seminar on how best to organise their practices to cope with the current problems of disinfection and sterilisation.

Many dentists believe that infection control in general practice requires sacrifices. Potentially increased costs and loss of productivity are just two of the concerns of the private practitioner. This seminar will suggest ways to minimise these potential losses by combining clinical efficiency with good infection control.

The presentation will explain how different procedures can be handled in different ways. It is designed to be realistic and practical; hence, we encourage you to bring your dental chairside assistant.

"When do you need to autoclave?", "When can other systems be used?", "Can gloves be re-used?", "Do you oil a handpiece before or after sterilising - or both?", "I cannot autoclave my curing light and I have some blood splashed on it and the spittoon. What should I do?".

PTO

These are some of the many questions to be addressed. In addition, a trade exhibit of appropriate solutions and devices will be on display.

- * **WHERE?** Education Block, Westmead Hospital
- * **WHEN?** **Friday, 27th. August, 1993.**
- * **TIME?** Free sandwiches available at **12.30 p.m.**
Presentation commences at 1.30 p.m.
Finish 5.00 p.m. There will be time to ask questions.
- * **COST?** **\$25.00** per dentist. This fee includes that of your chairside assistant and the sandwiches and afternoon tea.

LECTURERS:

Dr. Ronald Robinson BS, DMD.

Ron earned his Bachelor of Science degree in 1969 and graduated from the University of Kentucky School of Dentistry in 1973. He worked in private practice and taught four-handed dentistry at the Kentucky College for three years as an Assistant Professor. He was appointed Dental Staff Specialist at Westmead Dental Clinical School in 1981 and is at present the Head of the Dental Assistant Utilisation Unit. Furthermore, he is a member of the Westmead Infection Control Sub-Committee and in that capacity has lectured on Infection Control and its relationship to four-handed dentistry at ADA Congresses.

Dr. Tony McLachlan BDS (Univ. of Sydney).

Tony has been employed at the Westmead Dental Clinical School for the past 9 years. He has worked part-time in private practice for two years and has been Honorary Clinical Tutor on the University of Sydney Faculty of Dentistry since 1985. He has worked in the Dental Assistant Utilisation Unit since graduating and is presently the Senior Registrar. He has presented numerous lectures at Westmead Hospital and throughout New South Wales on Dental Assistant Utilisation Infection Control and Sharps Awareness.

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APPLICATION

Please enrol: Dr.
<Surname> <Given names>

Address:
.....
.....

Telephone.....Postcode.....

to attend the Seminar on Infection Control at Westmead Hospital on Friday, 27 August, 1993 at 12.30 p.m.

My Dental Chairside Assistant.....will/will not also attend.
<Name>

My cheque for **\$25.00** made out to "International College of Dentists" is enclosed.

Please return to: Dr. Don Heffron, Post Office Box 970, ROCKDALE NSW 2216, by Thursday, 12th. August, 1993.