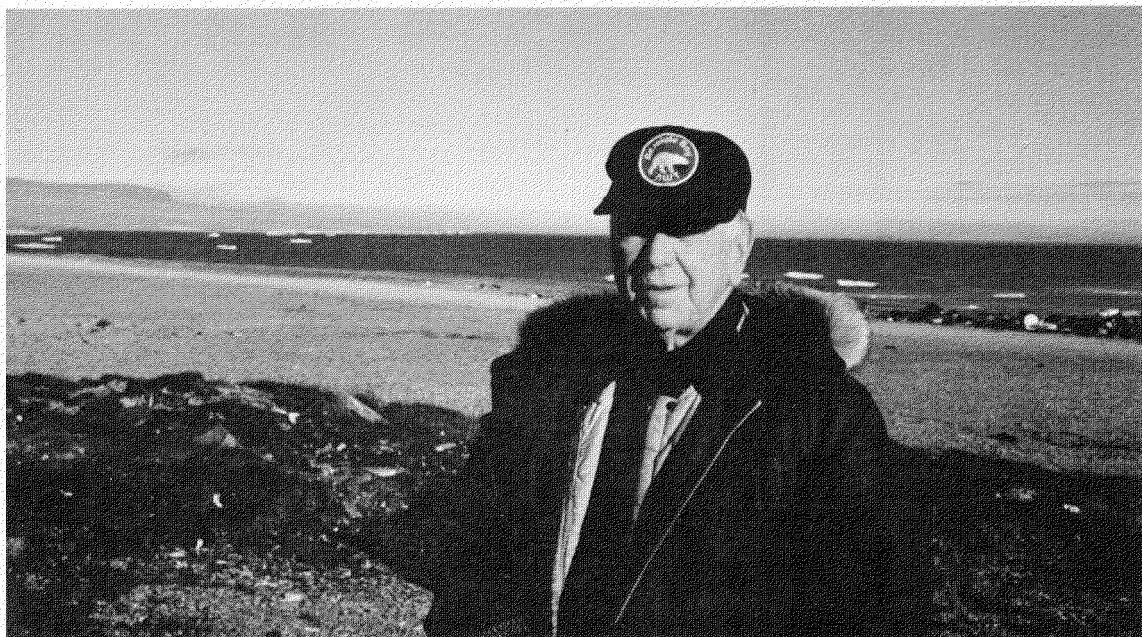


MAURICE HALL HAYCOCK
(1900-1988)



Maurice Haycock in Resolute, Cornwallis Island, 1979. Photo courtesy of Peter Schlederermann.

Maurice Haycock, mineralogist, geologist, photographer, musician, painter, historian, radio operator, died in Ottawa on December 23, 1988, at the age of 88 years.

Maurice Haycock was born in Wolfville, Nova Scotia, September 1, 1900, the only child of Ernest and Priscilla Haycock. His mother died when he was 3 years old and his father when he was a teenager. His father was a Harvard graduate and professor of geology at Acadia University and Haycock followed in his father's footsteps. However, before then, he had served in the First World War for nearly two years, before it was discovered that he was not yet 17. On his return to Canada, with an honourable discharge, he began the studies at Acadia University, which led to Princeton University and a Ph.D. degree in economic geology and mineralogy in 1931. That fall, he joined the Department of Mines in Ottawa, where he served until his retirement in 1965, having established a mineralogy section devoted to the microscopic study of the ores of Canada. During his examination of some ores from South Africa, he discovered a mineral that had previously been undetected, and it was named Haycockite after him. Some of his early studies on mineralogy concerned the uranium mine at Great Bear Lake.

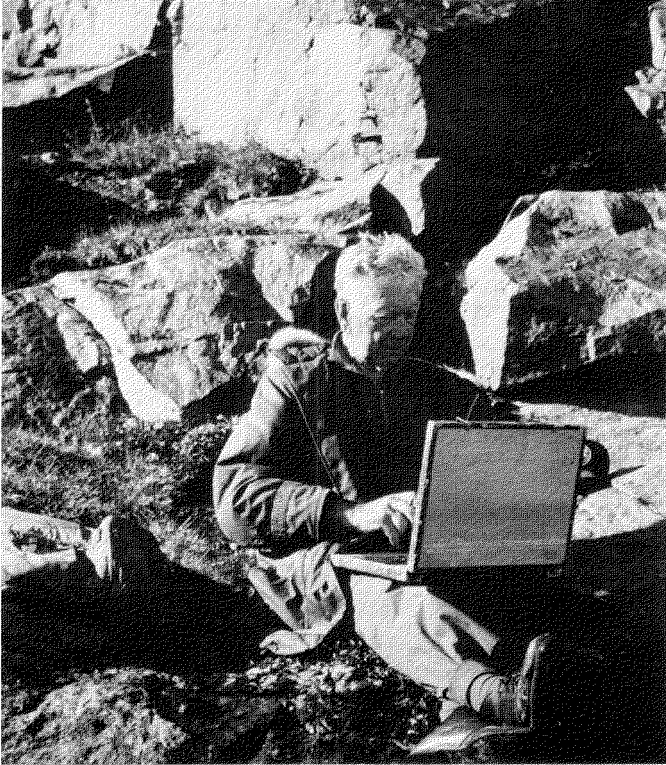
Haycock was a talented musician and played the French horn in the Ottawa Civic (now Symphony) Orchestra, of which he was the founder and the first president. He also helped found the Ottawa Youth Orchestra in 1960, which travelled to many parts of Canada, including the Banff School of Fine Arts. On February 24, 1975, at a special tenth anniversary concert of the Ottawa Symphony Orchestra, in the National Arts Centre, the mayor, Lorry Greenberg, of Ottawa, declared that day "Maurice Haycock Day" and he was made an honorary citizen of Ottawa and presented with

the key to the city for his contributions in science, art and music. His talent in all kinds of music showed early, for he had his own "combo" while attending Acadia and played both on and off campus.

His love affair with the Arctic began in the fall of 1926, when he and Lud Weeks, of the Geological Survey of Canada, and Leslie Livingston, a medical doctor from Douglas, Ontario, spent a year of geological and geographical exploration on Baffin Island, based at Pangnirtung. They built a three-room house near the mouth of the fiord, where they lived until April 1927; the cabin is now part of the museum complex at Pangnirtung. He returned on the eastern arctic annual supply vessel, the *Beothic*, in the fall of 1927, and fellow passengers on that voyage were A.Y. Jackson and Sir Frederic Banting, both well-recognized artists, even then. Thus began a friendship with A.Y. Jackson that was to last until Jackson's death in 1974. Haycock began to paint in 1935, mostly in water-colours and pastels, but in 1944 Jackson encouraged him to paint in oil, and the two together had many painting expeditions. Haycock was surely the most widely travelled in the Arctic of all Canada's painters.

Haycock's painting jaunts took him across Canada, to every province, the Territories, Alaska, Greenland and the North Pole. In fact, most of his paintings during the last 35 years of his life were of the far North. He estimated he had travelled more than 350 000 miles on painting expeditions. He was particularly interested in the history of European arctic exploration, and he painted the places visited by the early explorers who had left their mark on the land. He was in the process of putting together a text to go with some 40 paintings when he died, and his family hopes, as do all arctic fans, that this work can be completed.

There was another side to Haycock as well, and that was as a radio operator — an enthusiastic amateur, a “ham” — VE 3LC. He was known all across the North as “Doc” and for many years kept regular weekly “skeds” with Alert, the northernmost military base in Canada. He acted as a clearing house for personal messages from members of the forces, messages outside the official skeds.



Maurice Haycock on Knud Peninsula, 1979. Photo courtesy of Karen McCullough.

Photography was another interest that attracted a bit of his immense talent. Although an amateur, he took professional quality photographs a long time ago. He took the official pictures at Bache Peninsula in 1926 to record the establishment of the RCMP post and the raising of the flag at the post. He progressed from those first plates, to film packs, to slides and movies and later to video recorder. He has left an extensive legacy of arctic events and scenery.

It is interesting that different groups of people knew him by different and consistent first names. His wife and close

personal, non-professional associates called him “Maurie”; friends that knew him first through his professional work nearly all called him “Doctor” or “Morris”; he is known universally through the radio fraternity as “Doc”; and a few friends called him “Maurice.”

Haycock was one of the people most knowledgeable about the European history of the Arctic of anyone we ever met. He would be happy to discuss the European exploration by the hour, not from the retrospective point of view but rather from what we could learn from it about people and where artifacts of their passing might be found in the Arctic. Indeed he rarely talked about the past on any subject, except as a springboard to the future. Along with C.H. Smith, formerly of the Geological Survey of Canada, we used to have periodic lunches with Haycock based on what we carried to the office in brown bags, usually supplemented by some goodies provided by his wife, Kay. These were happy occasions, and the last one took place just three months before he died, when he learned of the possibility that one of his favourite pilots, Duncan Grant, and one of us (GDH) had perhaps finally discovered the site of Sir John Ross’s location of the North Magnetic Pole in 1831.

Haycock was awarded the Massey Medal by the Royal Canadian Geographical Society in 1980 and received an Honorary Doctorate of Civil Laws degree from Acadia University in 1986. In the same year, Acadia posted a retrospective exhibition of more than 80 of his arctic paintings, and he has had other showings, including in Whitehorse, Yellowknife, Saskatoon, Halifax, St. John’s, Pangnirtung, Shefferville, etc. A collection of his northern paintings has been presented to the University of Saskatchewan.

Haycock was married in 1941 to Katharine Blackadar, of Weymouth, Nova Scotia, a graduate nurse of the Ottawa Civic Hospital. They have two daughters: Karole has degrees in chemistry, physiology and marine biology and is now married and living in Newfoundland; Kathy, living near Ottawa, is a graduate in psychology. Both are talented artists in their own right.

Haycock was loved by all who knew him, and he knew a great many people. He was uncompromisingly honest, a good storyteller, a solid friend, and a great guy to be with. He is missed by us all. We extend our deepest sympathy to Mrs. Haycock and their two daughters. At the same time, we deeply appreciate all they did to make it possible for Maurice Haycock to pursue his avid interest in things of the Arctic.

*J.M. Harrison
G.D. Hobson
Energy, Mines and Resources Canada
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
K1A 0E4*