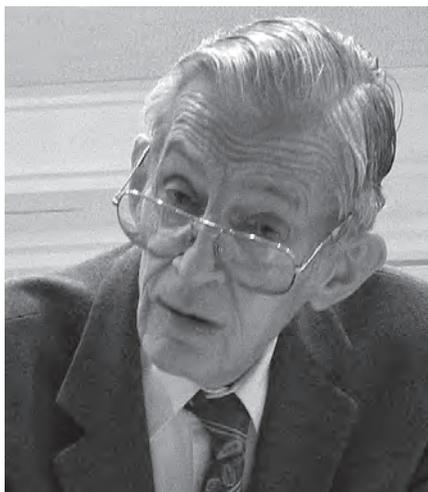


In Memoriam:



William Douglas Panton, M.D.

April 24, 1923 – December 20, 2007

Born in 1923, of Irish, Scottish, and British ancestry in the aftermath of World War One, Bill Panton worked his way into the hearts of many of his fellow human beings. His Great-Grandfather John Maclure arrived from England with a contingent of Royal Engineers, or 'Sapper's,' in 1856 to protect British interests during a rush of American gold miners, and to help establish the new colonies. His wife Martha and two children arrived soon after aboard the sailing vessel Thames City. When John's unit disbanded, they together with their children Sara, Susan, Fred, Charles and Sam moved from Sapperton to settle in their homestead at Matsqui Prairie. Aside from entertaining the occasional passing friend such as Sir Matthew Begbie, they operated from their home the Western Union telegraph repeater station, where Sara honed the skills that led her to become, at age 15, the highest paid woman in British Columbia. They established the

brickworks at Clayburn and purchased an area of land they called Abbotsford. Sam went on to a career in architecture. Though he competed and sometimes worked with Francis Rattenbury on commissions such as Government House, Sam's best known building may be Hatley Park, otherwise known as 'The Mansion' in the X-Men movie franchise, and Royal Roads University. Bill's Grandmother, Sara, married John McLagan and together they owned and managed the World newspaper. When John died in 1901 Sara became the first female managing owner of a daily newspaper in Canada. She sold the paper in 1905 to LD Taylor, who later assimilated it into The Vancouver Sun. Sara and John had five children, one of whom was Doris.

William Douglas Panton was born April 24, 1923 to Doris and Dr. Kenneth D. Panton, a WWI Medical Officer, in the family home in downtown Vancouver,

where high-rise apartment buildings now reign supreme. He, his younger brother John and sister Sally were all three educated locally, though as a family they spent many summers at Buccaneer Bay. Under his father's influence, Bill took to medical studies, beginning his studies at UBC but earning his medical degree in 1947 at McGill University in Montreal. Back on the West Coast, Dr. Panton began his medical practice in smaller communities including Hope, Powell River, and Alert Bay, where he met his bride-to-be.

He and Mabel married in St. John's Shaughnesy Anglican Church in 1951. In 1953, he returned permanently to establish a family practice in East Vancouver, including patients of his retiring father. From him he also took over until 1971 duties as an attending physician for the Vancouver Police Department.

As an old-style physician, Dr. Panton was far more interested in his patients and the art of healing than the business of medicine. Long hours, house calls, and middle-of-the night telephone calls were normal. In general he loved his work, but his willingness to use alternative methods when orthodox medicine fell short at times created stressful friction with the College of Physicians and Surgeons. He became very involved with Health Action Network Society (HANS), and in orthomolecular and nutritional medicine, and supported other medical pioneers, some of whom also had grievances with the medical establishment.

Especially important to him in later years was his interest in AIDS research, particularly that of Harold Foster and colleagues at Menigo Hospital. In 1991 the Canadian Schizophrenia Foundation honoured him as the "Orthomolecular Doctor of the Year." Though not much used in his practice, computers became part of his life after his retirement in 1992. Doing his best with the new technology, he spent many hours writing newsletters,

letters to friends, editors and others with a similar flair as that of his news editor grandparents. In spite of increasing physical challenges, he joined with the ministry M2W2, visiting prison inmates in Fraser Valley institutions. As a Rotarian for over 40 years, and two-time Paul Harris Award fellow, he continued attending even if it meant riding his scooter to a 7:30 am breakfast. Bill loved to travel, but his final trip was just as far as Locarno, his favorite beach, and near the once family home.

He died December 20, 2007, at the Royal Columbian Hospital, Sapperton, and was cremated at Forest Lawn Cemetery December 24. Predeceased by his parents Dr. K.D. and Doris Panton, his brother John and sister Sally. Survived by his loving wife of 56 years, Mabel, and his beloved children: Doug (Joanne), Diana, Kathy (Albert), Margaret (Will), Ken, David, and Donald; their families, including many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He also leaves behind sister-in-law Dorie, several, nieces, nephews, cousins, and countless friends.

- submitted by Mrs. Mabel Panton
and Family

Photo of Bill Panton, listening intently to a colleague at the Nutritional Medicine Today Conference, Vancouver, 2002 by Greg Schilhab