

SAMPLE, William Kenneth Rodney (Rod) [UNTD UNICORN '45] (1924 - 2017) Age: 93



SAMPLE, William Kenneth (Rod) January 01, 1924 - March 03, 2017 With great sadness we announce that Rod Sample passed away on Friday, March 3rd 2017. Rod was predeceased by his beloved wife of 53 years, Ruth (in 1999), and by his sister Edna and brother Ted. Born in Kerrobert, Saskatchewan in 1924, Rod had fond memories of growing up under the prairie sky, learning to golf in open fields, playing trombone in the local band and helping at the family's store - Sample Brothers - Kerrobert's first department store. Rod's love of stamp collecting traces back to his father, William Burton Sample, who was the post master and a founder of Kerrobert's United Church. Like many of his generation, Rod was called to serve in WW2 and assigned to the H.M.C.S. Orkney for the duration. After the war, he continued his service becoming a lieutenant in the naval reserve. Rod met the love of his life, Ruth Stewart, while attending the University of Saskatchewan. They married in Ruth's hometown of Kamsack in 1946. Their first child, Marilyn Christie, was born the following year and in 1950, son William Stewart was born. A few years later the family moved to British Columbia ultimately settling in Victoria where Rod enjoyed a long and influential career as a music educator in both secondary and post secondary schools. Rod's contribution to Canada's arts community also included teaching stagecraft at the Banff School of Fine Arts and UBC in the 1950s and 60s, as a trombonist in the Greater Victoria Concert Band and South Island Wind Ensemble (among others), and as an accomplished water colour painter. Rod will be remembered fondly by the many students he inspired and encouraged - some of whom went on to play in ensembles and orchestras around the world. Rod's family will remember his creativity, kindness, patience and love, and that he kept a wonderful sense of humour until the end. Rod is survived by his devoted sister Joan (Alan); and children, Marilyn (Gary) and Bill (Helesia); grandchildren Christie (Dan), Colleen (Mende), Max, Miles and Thea; and great grandchildren, Colin, Danielle, Jade and Lilijana. Rod is also survived by nephew Laurie and his wife Janet who provided much love and friendship. Rod will be remembered by his cousin, Mary, and her husband Bob Steele who served as best man and woman at Rod and Ruth's wedding - and vice versa. The family would like to thank caring staff at Royal Jubilee Hospital and Sunrise Vancouver who ensured Rod's final months were dignified and comfortable. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Rod's memory to the 'Rod Sample Fund' for a music student award at the University of Victoria. A celebration of life will be held on Saturday, April 1st from 2-5pm at Goward House in Victoria. Published in Victoria Times Colonist from Mar. 18 to Mar. 19, 2017

Rod was in that intrepid group of Vets who took advantage of the post-war DVA Education programs, entering University when they otherwise might not have and joined the UNTD or equivalent programs. His record as a Cadet is vague because of course they were in those days not Cadets at all, but ordinary seaman and potential Officer Candidates. He did complete the program and was promoted to SLT RCN(R) on June 2 '49, O-64848, attached to UNICORN. Subsequently to A/LT RCN(R), sen. 10 Aug '51, still at UNICORN and was on their books as such at least to 1955.

We were not in touch with him but had previously come across information relating to his WWII time in ORKNEY and his 1st UNTD summer in 1946. In Feb '45, ORKNEY (Frigate) had pranged a merchant vessel in the Irish Sea with substantial damage to both. The MV actually sank and ORKNEY had to have extensive repairs. Thus an unexpected leave opportunity for Rod Sample. He travelled to an RAF base in Wales to visit a P/O hometown buddy and to get onto the base and stay and eat there, they kitted him out as an RCAF F/Lt, which deception was carried off with aplomb. Later of course he was to wear his own double stripes. As a 1st year UNTD in ONTARIO in the summer of '46, on a cruise to San Francisco, he was seconded to the ship's band and his bona fides with a trombone made him the feature player as they belted out "Anchors Away", from on top of the forward turret while going under the Golden Gate Bridge, in pea soup fog. They didn't really even get to see the bridge but did have a loud foghorn to accompany their musical salute to the Yanks.

Bill C