**Larry Asp**

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| Born in Edmonton in 1941, John Lawrence Asp has had an interesting life. Since his father was a bank manager the family moved often. Towns in Alberta, Saskatchewan and BC all had banks. After graduation" the wanderlust continued Larry lived and worked in Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto and Guelph. A chip off the old block, Larry worked in a bank for six years but then he left to start a new career in underwriting. His career in insurance took him to Calgary where he worked for five years before transferring to Toronto. Finally he settled in Guelph | E:\2014 NEW MEMBERS\Larry Asp.jpg |

where he joined the Ayr Farmers Mutual Company until his retirement thirteen years later. It wasn't all work. Larry married twice and became the proud father of four successful children. Larry seemed very comfortable in front of the audience at last month's PROBUS meeting so it didn't come as too big a surprise to learn that he had belonged to Toastmasters.

Since the age of fifteen Larry has been a ham radio operator. He has made radio contact with ‘hams' in more than two hundred and fifty countries and territories. Growing out of his interest in 'wireless' he now volunteers at the Hammond Radio Museum in Guelph, with its collection of over three thousand radio-related artifacts. A potential Probus excursion, perhaps?

But there was one event in Larry’s life that really stands out.

One Friday, afternoon I was the accountant at a bank branch in Vancouver. I still remember it. It was five o'clock in the afternoon and two guys came in. One of them had a sawed off 22 rifle. He jumped up on the counter and put the gun in my face and said, "You go over there und fill this bag with money". I went to the first teller cage and emptied the loose cash in the drawer. Along the way, I pushed the burglar alarm and the robber saw my hand move and he said, "Did you push that button?" and I said. "No". Anyway, he emptied that teller’s cage and then two more and then they went off down the street and got away.

His tale continued with a light-hearted account of the robbers' falling-out and their ultimate capture, so perhaps for that reason, upon first hearing. I didn't absorb the enormity of what had actually happened. Like most of us, I have probably seen hundreds, if not thousands, of punch-ups, muggings, shootings, stick-ups, rapes and murders on TV so, at some level, a mere armed robbery, can seem almost ho-hum. But the more I thought about it, and the more I think about it, that Friday afternoon so many years ago, must have changed Larry's life forever. It was the real 'McCoy’, it wasn't fiction. Larry actually had a menacing stranger, stick a real gun in his face and ask for the money. It really happened.