

John Orvil Elliott

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When thinking about the legacy Dad has created it is difficult to decide where to start. He had left home at an early age, not out of conflict but out of courage. His Dad said; don't hold a job for more than 6 months. Go and explore the world, so Dad hitch hiked across Canada working at various jobs. My recollection of this was that this was soon after he finished school. He returned home to see his Dad in his last days. They sold the piano to bury him. (His dad was a former Olympian representing Canada in the 1908 Olympics as a Gymnast, WWII vet, and a dentist who did a great portion of his work pro bono.)



Fear was not in dad's nature, he ventured forward as a great entrepreneur. Some things failing, but most doing very well. He had a great ability to act, not waffle or deliberate. While his spirit for innovation and being the best was great, he had an underlying steadfast requirement for security and preservation of what he had created. So was his approach to business, so was his approach to family.

To say that Dad was not a rascal would be incorrect. He was. That is part of the legend of John Elliott. Outspoken; courageous; opinionated; forceful. Enormously fun. He did love life. Get out of my way.

Dad had not been a great student. I read his Grade thirteen report card. His home room teacher was his math Teacher. Dad got 33% in math. His teacher wrote "John has not done well in math this year, but he has contributed greatly to the boxing team." Dad continued an insatiable quest for knowledge all his life, reading furiously book after book, expressing very clear opinions on each book, to all who would challenge the debate. Sometimes he would buy many books and give them away if he felt the message was correct and strong. Dad also did figure out math. The accounting systems he helped create have been adopted by multi nationals who became familiar with them. A dummy he was not.

Dad was a very generous person. He normally kept his help to others quiet. He helped many people personally, but also shared his sense of community through help for hospitals, colleges, minor sporting teams and many other needs.

He had two sayings he loved; one was; "I would sure hate to be against us." And the other was; "You are not here for a long time, so it had better be a good time."

I would say a song that would typify Dad would be "I get knocked down, but I get up again." I certainly hope that is true. Rascal!

-Scott Elliott