

# *Robert Morton Ingram*

1898-1966

Robert Morton Ingram was born in Waitsburg, Washington, on July 29, 1898. Waitsburg was home to the Ingram family for only a few years, however. The pioneer spirit soon caused the Ingram family to move to Quinault, Washington. There Bob helped work on his father's farm and watched over his three brothers and sisters and at the same time learned a great deal about the forest surrounding the Ingram farm. Bob's first exposure to the timber industry came at an early age when he took a job in a logging camp and later in the woods on the yarding crew.

Robert Morton Ingram received a proper education because of his mother's insistence that her children and the children of the area have a proper school. Mrs. Ingram accepted responsibility for having a school built and later personally taught grades one through eight. Bob's outdoor spirit made it difficult for him to sit in a classroom but his restlessness was in part satisfied by paddling five of his classmates across Quinault Lake by canoe each day to school.

Upon Bob Ingram's graduation from the 8<sup>th</sup> grade at Quinault, the Ingrams moved to the town of Hoquiam, Washington, where better education was awaiting their children. Bob Ingram fit into the life of the large high school very well with football (he was elected captain of the varsity team), debate and other school activities demanding much of his time.

On April 10, 1917, Robert Ingram enlisted in the Navy to serve in World War I. He entered active naval duty three days after war had been

declared and was on the high seas almost constantly for two years. At the conclusion of World War I, Robert Ingram resumed his education at the University of Washington.

Robert Ingram's leadership quality and personality were sure to leave an impact on that school. His favorite activity was varsity football at the University of Washington where he played on the 1920-22 teams. In his senior year, he was elected captain of the football team. He also rowed on several of the University of Washington's most famed crews. While at Washington, Robert Ingram won the first jeweled plaque of the University's W Club for being an outstanding senior and possessing outstanding scholarship and personal qualities. During his college years, Robert Ingram was also president of the University Board of Control. It was during Bob Ingram's term of office that the University mascot changed from the Sun Dodgers to the current mascot, the Huskies. Robert Ingram graduated from the University of Washington in December 1923.

On June 19, 1923, Bob Ingram married his college girl friend, Catherine Manola Miller, the daughter of a prominent Aberdeen, Washington pioneer lumber family.

Bob and Catherine Ingram had three sons, Bob, Jr., Ernest and James. The Ingrams chose Aberdeen as their home, where Bob entered the lumbering profession with a job in the sales department of the E.C. Miller Cedar Lumber Company. A short time later,

he became Sales Manager of the same corporation. Bob Ingram proved to be an enthusiastic and dedicated salesman with insight for new lumbering concepts. With his gift of persuasion and leadership, he was sent to Washington, D.C. by the Lumber Association to represent the industry in congressional hearings on pending industry legislation. In Washington, D.C. Bob established a reputation as an influential and well-informed industry representative.

Holding a naval reserve commission, Bob Ingram felt obligated to re-enter active service when World War II was declared. Bob received a leave-of-absence and returned to active duty in June 1941. He soon rose to the rank of Captain with his own command, the S.S. DICKENS.

When the war ended, Bob came home from the Navy to re-enter the employ of the E.C. Miller Cedar Lumber Company and was later elected President of the company upon the death of his father-in-law, Mr. Miller. As president of the E.C. Miller Cedar Lumber Company, Bob Ingram held a strong hometown loyalty as well as feelings of personal obligation to his company's employees. Eventually Bob passed on his own philosophy to his two sons, Bob, Jr. and Jim who would join and assume responsibility for the company. His third son, Ernest, became a lawyer.

Robert Ingram was noted in his home community of Aberdeen as a hard working and generous citizen. After World War II, Robert Ingram continued his active participation in the Naval Reserve. His extra curricular activities include serving on the Aberdeen School Board, Commander of the local American Legion and serving twice on the Board of Governors for the Washington

Athletic Club. He was a member of the Aberdeen Port Commission for 12 years. The out-of-door was always a major part of Robert Ingram's life. Golfing was enjoyed but fishing, hunting and hiking were seemingly inbred.

Robert Ingram acquired a long list of credits as a leader in the lumber industry. He accepted many assignments in addition to his duties as President of the E.C. Miller Lumber Company, which included President of the Red Cedar Shingle Bureau, President of the Red Cedar Lumber Association, President of the West Coast Lumber Association and President of the National Lumber Manufacturers Association.

Robert Morton died of a sudden heart attack on March 6, 1966. The goals for the lumber industry and the professionalism which Bob Ingram strived so diligently to achieve for that industry are innovations that will always be remembered.