

IN MEMORIAM

PETER D. FRIESEN

1922-2009

Peter Dietrich "Pete" Friesen was an individual with unusual talent. This Ukrainian child, born of displaced aristocrats, weathered a difficult life as a child on the plains of western Canada. Devoid of formal education higher than elementary school Pete compiled a long list of accomplishments brought about primarily through the process of thinking. "Think it through" was his motto and his method of solving problems that confronted him throughout his exceptional journey of life.

With a Dutch-Mennonite heritage Pete enlisted in the Canadian Army and, as a conscientious objector, served as a medic. He met Edith Markham in New Brunswick. They married in 1944 and reared five children, mainly of British Columbia, Canada.

A son, brother, husband, father and friend, Pete both failed and succeeded in more business ventures than most would even attempt. It was a crop failure that started Pete on a career in the structural moving business.

In the mid-1950s, with the assistance of Robin Rehshaw, a young English engineer who had migrated to British Columbia, Canada, what is now known as a Unified Hydraulic Jacking System for structural moving was developed using adaptations from 1930's patents of mining equipment and other patents. Pete also developed a Center of Gravity computer program that is used by some of the larger structural movers today. His involvement with numerous IASM members on significant moves of major structures throughout the United States and Canada resulted in recognition through several awards.

At a memorial service in Abbotsford, BC, Canada, on February 27, 2009, several members of IASM participated in the celebration, including, Bill Lee, a founding member of IASM, Jeremy Nickel, Jerry Matyiko, Del Davis, Peter Christensen and David Edelstein.

Long time friend and associate Del Davis, D.B. Davis, LLC, Everett, WA related that the saying he personally loved to hear the most from Pete was, "Dell, I have no problem with that." It came with major thought and great meaning behind it, Del continued. "It was a comment from Pete that was truly genuine and I looked forward to hearing with great anticipation. That was Pete's way of telling me I had his final approval. He used the phrase for both business and personal situations. I hope the day comes that I may be there for others the way Pete was there for all of us here."

Jerry Matyiko, Expert House Movers of Maryland, Sharptown, MD expressed appreciation to widow Edith Friesen "for sharing Pete with us. For all the weeks and months Pete would be away from her and the family helping movers accomplish almost impossible jobs. All of us are indebted to you for your graciousness in allowing Pete the freedom to be gone from home so many times for lengthy stays."

David Edelstein, Whatcom House Movers, Bellingham, WA was a long time friend. "From my perspective Pete had only one fault: He was too giving. Others, however, may not consider such a trait a fault. Pete always had time for anyone and he was always a friend."

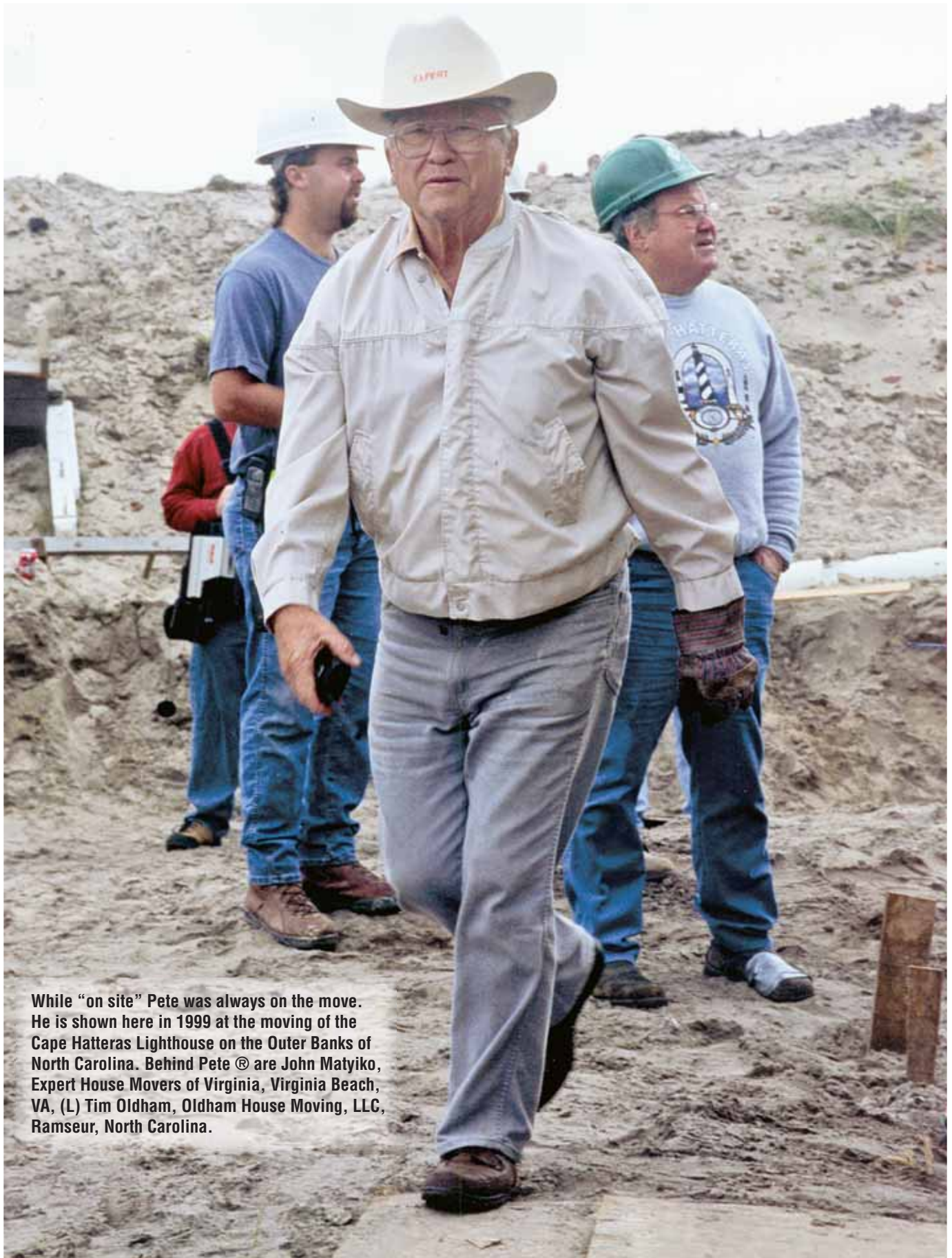
Jeremy Nickel, Nickel Bros. House Moving Ltd, Port Coquitlam, BC, Canada said Pete was always a good competitor. "In fact we purchased Pete's company, Modern House Moving, when he moved to Chicago in the mid 1950's. He played a significant role in our industry."

Bill Lee, first editor of this magazine and a founding member of IASM from Missouri noted Pete was most helpful to him in his responsibilities when the organization was first organized. I always considered him a friend."

Mrs. Edith Friesen resides at 367 Cessna, Lynden, WA 98264.



Pete (center, seated) was a participant in the early growth of the International Association of Structural Movers and served on its first Board of Directors in 1983. Shown here are: 1st Row: Terry Emmert, Emmert International Corporation; Chip Belding, Belding Corporation; Pete Friesen, Advance Moving Construction, Inc; Carl Tuxill, Inc; Charlie Blake, Blake Moving Co., Inc. 2nd Row: Allen Cansler, C&S House Movers, Inc.; Jim Kabrick, Elmer Buchta, Inc.; Bil Lee; Dave Scribner, Scrib's Moving & Heavy Haul, Inc.; James Drake, Cecil Drake House Moving, Inc. and Lee Wetzell, AA Jet Housemovers.



While “on site” Pete was always on the move. He is shown here in 1999 at the moving of the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse on the Outer Banks of North Carolina. Behind Pete © are John Matyiko, Expert House Movers of Virginia, Virginia Beach, VA, (L) Tim Oldham, Oldham House Moving, LLC, Ramseur, North Carolina.

Relive the Life, Times and Moves of Peter Friesen

"If a door of opportunity opens, I will always walk through it." Pete Friesen has lived by that motto throughout a structural moving career spanning over 50 years. What distinguishes him, however, is that he has marched confidently through many doors that most others would never dare to enter.

In the process, he became a legend in the industry. Among the numerous award-winning moves that benefited from his expertise were four that earned a listing in the *Guinness Book of World Records*:

- Cape Hatteras Lighthouse, Outerbanks, North Carolina (1999). This 4,800-ton, 208-foot-tall structure was moved 2,900 feet inland by rail and roller.

- Shubert Theatre, Minneapolis, Minnesota (1998). The entire 2,908-ton theatre was moved three blocks on wheels.

- Gem Theatre, Detroit, Michigan (1997). To relocate this 2,700-ton theatre, he designed a pressure panel and distribution blocks for the control of hydraulics.

- Fairmount Hotel, San Antonio (1986). This 1,600-ton hotel was 79 years old when his company moved it on wheels five blocks down the street and across a bridge, making three 90-degree turns in the process.

Now you can watch and learn as Pete describes in his own words how he contributed to the successful completion of these and many other incredible jobs. IASM is now offering videos of his presentation at the IASM 2003 Annual Conference in Sacramento, California. When you see this video, you'll immediately understand how Pete uses his wit and wisdom to win friends and admirers wherever he goes.

Virtually anybody would appreciate descriptions of the mighty moves, but IASM members will be particularly interested in Pete's descriptions of his role in the development of the unified hydraulic jacking system, the three-point zone jack, and a barge trailer capable of transporting ten houses at a time. Helping Pete make his points are technical drawings, photos from magazines and newspapers, and explanatory slides.

Along with his triumphs, Pete shares his tribulations, including the failure of his home-building venture when the Canadian government failed to honor a contract. Let Pete Friesen's story inspire you. Purchase this video today.

Included with the 110-minute video is a historical timeline with print descriptions of the major jobs and developments in Pete's life.



Order *The Life, Times and Moves of Peter Friesen* now!



International Association
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