

votedearnevalleyvotedearnevalley
votedearnevalleyvotedearnevalley
votedearnevalleyvotedearnevalley
votedearnevalleyvotedearnevalley



Albert Foodbotham
30 Years as Mayor of
Dearne Valley

Died 27th June 2009

Aged 62 years



vote
dearne
valley

vote
dearne
valley

In memory of Michael John McKnight



Albert Foodbotham (aka Mike McKnight)

It is with deep regret that I have to inform you of the death of Michael John McKnight who passed away on Saturday June 27th 2009 aged 62 years.

His death followed an accident on Friday 19th of June in Scotland where Michael appears to have fainted, fallen to the floor, and suffered a serious brain injury.

Editorial

I did not know Mike when he was an active Jaycee as I joined Gainsborough Jaycees in the mid 80s and only really became active after Mike had aged out and I had moved to Wrexham. He was not a regular attendee at Senate events so, although I met him a couple of times, I cannot say I knew him well. However one of the advantages of editing the Senate Newsletter is that you get to know lots of people through the articles you receive and the contacts you have with Senators all over the world and what they tell you.

Through putting together this commemorative booklet I feel I have got to know Mike very well over the last 3 weeks and I hope that for those of you who knew him it will bring back many happy memories and for those that did not know him it will help you to know him and realise what a loss his death is but that his spirit lives on in the many tales that will be told in Senate and Jaycee circles for eons to come of the Dearne Valley Bid and Mike's significant role in it.

The fact that this special supplement to the European Senate Newsletter has been produced and that it has been

100% paid for by friends of Mike who wanted to remember him and his spirit of FUN is a tremendous tribute to him.

Please see the back cover for a list of the sponsors and those that helped me make sure this booklet happened.

Of course I had heard of the Dearne Valley bid but not being a member at that time I did not know any detail - I just knew it was something from the BJC annals that had involved John Eaton & Gloria Loosebody! I did not know of Mike's key role so it has given me great pleasure to record for posterity both Mike's JCI life and the Dearne Valley Bid. It has certainly reinforced my view that although we all value how we developed and what we learnt during our time as Jaycees what we really treasure and value is the friendships and the fantastic FUN we had and can still have when we get together.

*Peter Browning
JCI Senator #49104*

Another Passion

He has had two Morgans over the years, first a red 4/4 followed by a new maroon 4/4

Runabout. He enjoyed many trips in both of the cars almost always with his dear mother Eveline in the passenger seat, sadly Eveline passed away in July 2008 at the young age of 95!

Following his mother's death he attended few of the centre events but in recent months began to show real signs of getting his life together again. He bought a dog 'Lily' of which he was particularly fond, and was in the process of selling his house, buying a bungalow, and really looking forward to the future.

These are edited extracts from a Morgan Sports Car Club circular about Mike's untimely death.



Morgans lined up at The Church of St Theresa, Stone Road, Trent Vale, Stoke-on-Trent where the Requiem Mass for Michael was held at 11.00am on Tuesday 14th July.

The Service was followed by Cremation at Bradwell Crematorium and a Reception at the Trentham Golf Club which was attended by many JCI Senators.

ht) - 30 years as Mayor of Dearne Valley

Mike McKnight #28127

8th Dec 1946 - 27th June 2009

When I interview people for a job I always ask one question. Please tell me ten adjectives that describe you.

So in sitting to write this Obituary I asked myself which ten adjectives would I use to describe Mike McKnight?

Ebullient, forthright, opinionated, fun, committed, life & soul, larger than life, thespian, bachelor.

I can't remember where and when I first met Mike he just always seemed to have been there. Mike and I certainly became good friends by the time of the Brighton conference in 1976 as we were both BJCC Vice Presidents. We were the problem pair who sat next to each other at the executive meetings passing notes and making asides as President Brod (Derek Broderick) tried to keep us under control.

We went on many National, European and World Conferences together and I was delighted when Mike accepted my invitation to be BJCC Hon Legal Advisor in my Presidential year of 1979. Yes thirty years ago!!

The highlight of that year for many was the Gothenburg World Conference, where the World President allowed Dearne Valley to make a mock bid against Berlin for the 1981 World Conference.

As BJCC President I sat nervously in General Assembly with Brian Reece alongside me. Berlin put on the most fantastic presentation with choirs all round the centre, quadraphonic sound and projectors from the back of auditorium, which were unprecedented for that time. It was fantastic and when they had finished I had a horrible churning sensation in my stomach and my brain was asking, why on earth are we bidding against them?

Brian Wall, then President of Leeds, appeared on stage with a small household projector and lined it up at the massive screen Berlin had used so effectively minutes before. He then turned round and winked at the audience. They started to laugh. The theatre was then blacked out and the Dearne Valley Male Voice Choir came on stage, with pit helmets and torches as lamps, humming Men of Harlech.

General Assembly and the Conference audience started to clap and the Japanese were taking photographs of the darkness!!! Then onto centre stage came, Yes; the most beautifully type-cast Mayor of Dearne Valley, dressed in the most outlandish Mayoral gown and ceremonial headgear, the man himself Mike McKnight. He had everyone riveted as he declared the whole of The Dearne Valley's support for the conference bid. It was a masterful performance and he was without doubt the STAR of the

show. We had rehearsed the bid and it was timed to last 22 minutes of the 30 minutes allotted time. It caused such laughter and applause that it took 38 minutes. Once things had settled down I had to announce that I had just received a telegram that the conference hotel "The PitHead Hilton" had collapsed and disappeared down the Mine Shaft and we would therefore have to withdraw our bid.



Mike on the right with Genichi Negano the 1981 World President and Hugh Facey

There still had to be a vote and I treasure the voting slip where Dearne Valley received 137 votes even after we had withdrawn. I know that in very large measure that was because of the performance of our Lord Mayor - Mike.

At the end of that year Mike wrote to me and in his letter he said it was one of his proudest moments.

It was as Mayor of Dearne Valley, into which Mike incorporated and projected so many of the adjectives I used earlier, that will be my lasting memory of Mike McKnight.

May God bless him.

*July 2009
Hugh D Facey
JCI Senator #25921
National President, BJCC 1979*

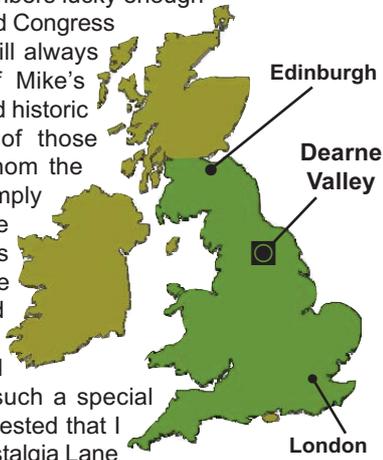


Albert Foodbotham (aka Mike McKnight)

Dearne Valley World Congress Bid Revisited

John Eaton #19170

The extremely sad news of the demise of Mike McKnight immediately prompts memories of a particularly joyous Jaycee event which I know was one of the milestones with which Mike would always want his name to be connected. Amongst the many enduring memories of this larger-than-life character, those BJC members lucky enough to have attended the World Congress in Gothenburg in 1979 will always treasure the memory of Mike's vital role in this unique and historic event. For the benefit of those younger Senators for whom the "Dearne Valley Bid" is simply a reference to some historic event which always provokes laughter on the part of older Senators, and for the benefit of those older Senators who would be happy to remember such a special occasion, the Editor suggested that I might take a trip down Nostalgia Lane and remind (or recount) to readers why the Dearne Valley Bid has such a special place in the annals of BJC.



In 1978, it appeared that there was to be only one conference bid for the 1981 World Congress – Berlin. No way were the Brits going to stand by and allow Berlin a "shoe-in". It was therefore decided to mount a rival, but fictitious, bid from a

little known local Chamber in BJC, in an area which badly needed economic regeneration, investment, and Junior Chamber support – Dearne Valley, the heart of the Yorkshire mining area.

As the theme of the 1982 European Conference in Rotterdam was due to be "See you Under Water" the theme for the Dearne Valley bid was a no-brainer – "See you Under-ground"!

Preparation for the bid was undertaken thoroughly and conscientiously, with all the usual pre-bid publicity and marketing – including the distribution of over 4,000 VD leaflets and stickers – "VD" for "Vote Dearne" of course (what else?) – produced in rolling green waves (the hills) over a black background (the mines).

News of the competition soon spread, much to the genuine concern and anxiety of the Berlin Bid Team – an anxiety which was fuelled by the frenzied activity which the Dearne Valley Bid Team maintained throughout the week leading up to the actual bid itself – including the take-over and conversion of a local café into a local pub – "The Miners Arms" – which in no time at all had acquired a clientele of regulars!



The highlight of the week was, of course, the General Assembly session at which the two bids were presented – especially as no-one (except for the BJC Team) knew that the Dearne Valley Bid was entirely fictitious.

The bids got off to a cracking start, with a superb presentation by the high-tech Krauts. Talk about "Vorsprung durch Technik"! The slick multi-media, stereophonic, all-singing, all-dancing presentation left everyone wondering how you could possibly "follow that"!

This question was soon answered when the Dearne Valley Odd-Job Man struggled onto the stage carrying a rickety old slide projector and lop-sided screen on folding "meccano" legs – the assembly of which provided a rather nice contrast to the previous teutonic technology!



Following that auspicious start, a unique mood of anticipation settled over the audience as all the lights went out and onto the stage in the darkness, came the 20-strong choir of Dearne Valley Miners, faces all blacked out and torches shining from their miners' helmets – as they then sang the specially written Miners' Chorus (to the tune of "Men of Harlech") "See you underground", led by James King's superb Basso profundo, George Wright's Bel Canto, and David Grainger's Can Belto

As Congress Director, I then introduced the team members, including the Deputy Director, John Buxton; (having been Deputy LOM President, Deputy Secretary and Deputy Treasurer, he seemed a natural choice for Deputy Congress Director) – Richard Heywood as Robert Vesco, the trusty Treasurer (the real Robert Vesco having just been imprisoned for a several-million-dollar fraud) – and the unforgettable Gloria Loosebody – Margaret Eaton, resplendent in black fishnets, stiletto heels and a short shiny red mac, and nothing else, whose function on the Committee was to "rejuvenate the Senators and older delegates".

Gloria proudly claimed to have occupied every position in Junior Chamber - mostly horizontal!

The final "master touch" was to produce no less a celebrity than the Lord Mayor of Dearne Valley, Councillor Albert Foodbotham! Who can forget the sight of Mike McKnight, resplendent in the (genuine) robes and regalia (borrowed from a Lord Mayor who doubtless owed Mike a favour) striding onto the stage for his moment of glory – his welcome speech which he managed to give in five European languages at the same time "Guten afternoon, Mesdames y

Signori, Mina Damer och Herrar, Herren und Ladies, Jag har Felicitations från Dearne Valley. Votre stad är wunderschön, mais aussi is ours.....Skoll!". Every alternate word was in a different language – but all delivered in Michael's unforgettable brummy and plummy [accent and tones, respectively!] And who will ever forget his memorable delivery of his concluding

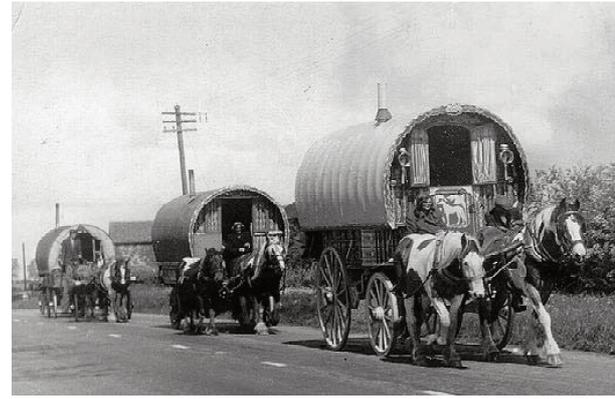
ht) - 30 years as Mayor of Dearne Valley

invitation to all the delegates to come and visit him when they come to Dearne Valley, as "the door to our 'ouse is always open – and 'as been, ever since some bugger nicked it two years ago"!



From then on, it was downhill all the way, with the ultimate send-up of every Conference Bid there has ever been. On its own, [some of!] the script might have been taken seriously – but the violent contrast between the script and the linked visual illustrations, made for a memorable and hilarious presentation, as slides were borrowed from absolutely everywhere else in the world and claimed as belonging to Dearne Valley. Thus delegates could arrive

or by Britain's most modern transport



as they approached through either of Dearne Valley's famous Twin Gates,



the West Gate

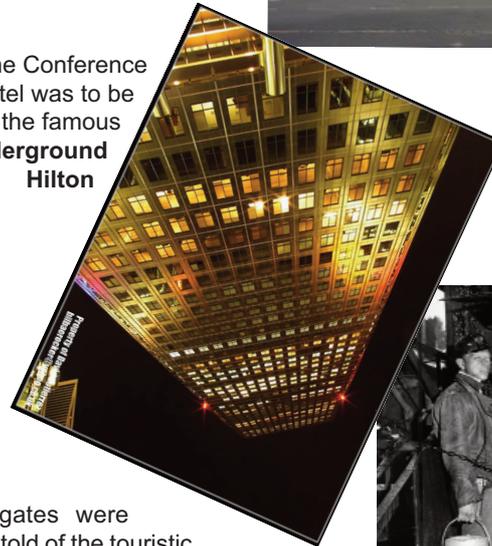


or the East Gate



by plane

The Conference Hotel was to be the famous underground Hilton



with luxury lifts to take the delegates to their rooms

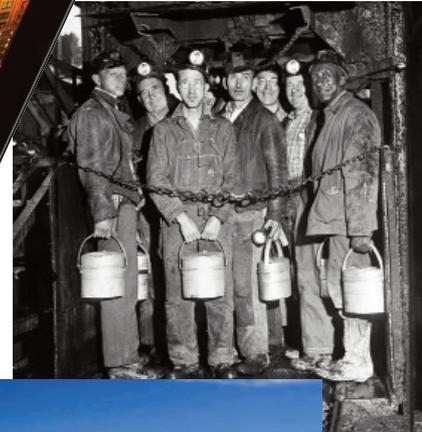
by Ship



by train



Delegates were then told of the touristic wonders to be found in Dearne Valley, including - - the famous local bathing beach



by local taxi





Albert Foodbotham (aka Mike McKnig



the world-renowned **Alderman Foodbotham Monument**

with a special programme of **activities for the Senators**



Having extolled the virtues of the location, delegates were offered a similar fantastic conference programme, starting with a Reception at the **home of the National President**

and the statue of the famous local nude Equestrian **Lady Godiva**



Sporting activities for the delegates ranged from



Pony trekking



or the **Senate Chairman**

followed by home hospitality at the homes of various **local Chamber Presidents**



and **swimming in the local Weir**

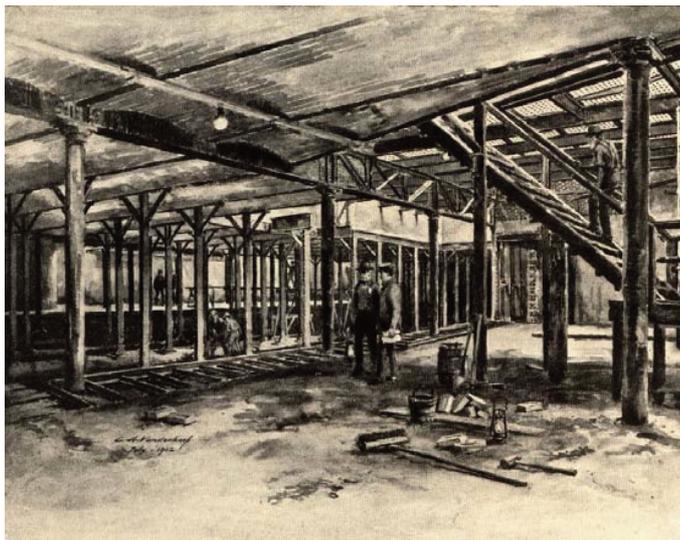


to skiing at the famous **Dearne Valley dry ski-slopes**



ht) - 30 years as Mayor of Dearne Valley

General Assembly would be held in the new **Conference Centre**



– at which point the presentation ground to a bit of a halt, as all the interpreters had effectively given up – stumped either by the difficulties of translating “Indoor Ice-rink and Municipal Abattoir” into Japanese, or simply because they were crying with laughter and could no longer translate!

To see delegation after delegation suddenly engulfed in waves of hysterical laughter (as the translation reached them) – including the Japanese delegation who actually slid out of sight underneath the table in front of them! - was a most unusual and gratifying sight.

which (we were assured by Dearne Valley Council) would be erected by the time of the Conference.

No wonder that the bid took twice its allotted time, thanks to the generous Chairmanship of Kumar Gera, the World President, who then arranged for the votes to be cast.

The **Senate Bar** would be at the Dearne Valley Holiday Inn which was **fully air conditioned**

To my consternation, at that stage it became apparent that nearly all the delegates still did not realise that the bid had been a spoof – they apparently thought that it had been a genuine bid but presented in a satirical way – “Oh those Brits, with their great sense of humour”. It therefore came as a relief when the votes for Berlin exceeded the votes for Dearne Valley – but only by the narrowest of margins!

Although Gloria Loosebody was undoubtedly responsible for attracting a large number of votes, it is fair to say that the maximum impact was made by the Lord Mayor of Dearne Valley, the late, great, Mike McKnight who will always be remembered with such affection.

To end this bout of nostalgia on a serious note, I am reminded of a rather nice saying by an ancient Turkish philosopher called Runi, who memorably said:-

“When you leave this earth, seek not to be buried in the ground, but to be buried in the hearts of men”

Not least because of all his outstanding commitments – his commitments to Junior Chamber, his commitment to Dearne Valley, his commitment to the law, his commitment to the Morgan Car Club, his commitment to helping in the brewing industry, his commitment to fellow man and above all, his commitment to having and sharing fun, means that the Lord Mayor of Dearne Valley will certainly be “buried in the hearts of men” for a very long time. Skol, Mike!



The formal Banquet on the last night would be held at Dearne Valley’s splendid **Indoor Ice-Rink and Municipal Abattoir**



John Eaton

JCI Senator #19170
Dearne Valley World Congress Director





Albert Foodbotham (aka Mike McKnight)

Mike McKnight - Tributes

Setting the Standard

We have very happy memories of Mike McKnight coming to Cambridge to a national medieval feast at King's College, in 1984. Mike, relaxed and flamboyant as IPP, was kitted out as an archbishop of some kind and he sang the grace in Latin. It was a magical moment and really set the tone for the whole evening. His voice echoed around the hall and certainly challenged the Collegium Regale, the King's College singers who were performing brilliantly that night. It must have been a rare occasion when a grace was rewarded with a resounding applause. It was Mike's fabulous grace which set the standard so high for the whole evening. He may even have had to do an encore. We send our sincere condolences to Mike's family and friends. With fondest memories from the old fogies of Cambridge Junior Chamber

Diana

Diana Jakubowska
JCI Senator #42343
National President 1989
International Vice President 1992

Larger than Life

I'm so sad to learn of Mike's passing. He was larger than life. Never a quiet moment in his company. I was present at the Dearne Valley presentation. But, he made a difference in a lot of lives, and seemingly lived it to the full. One cannot do better than that. Thank you for letting me know.

I also received our irregular NZ Jaycee Senators Newsletter today and a friend was listed as having passed on just recently too. Add to that two colleagues who returned to God, brings the total of mates I have known, to four just in June. I have always exhorted everyone as often as I could, to be a **Nowist!** To do it now... for tomorrow maybe we cannot.

Three days away from your Birthday. Does that mean you are a December 5 or 11 baby? *You toy with my intrigue, good sir.* I think that is how Mike would have said it. © (Mike, Richard Heywood & Hugh Facey have birthdays 3 days apart and for a few years in Sheffield enjoyed an annual "Birthday Dinner" together - Editor)

I toasted him with a glass of wine this evening.

Cheers.

Bill Potter
JCI Senator #22172

This was edited from an email that followed Mike's sudden death - Editor

'You're a fat Bully'

I worked with Mike very closely in Junior Chamber days as his term of office as a Regional Group Chairman coincided with my time as a chamber president and generally we saw eye to eye on most things. The only time that we had a real difference of opinion was in the way that I would be casting my chamber's votes on one issue but that did not affect our friendship.

Mike always had a fund of stories to tell and these are some of them:

Mike used to tell this story against himself. One day, he was in court cross examining a witness when the witness broke down and blurted out "You're a fat bully". Roy Beech #5211, who was on the bench said "Ah, I think we are now getting to the truth".

Another story he tells was about his mother, who died last year at the age of 95. She was not from the Potteries so when she moved there on getting married, she was startled on being introduced to a local businessman to be told "He's in sanitary".

David Grainger
JCI Senator #30164

(There is a story I could tell about Mike but as the lady is identifiable, that is definitely not for publication)

Bring back happy memories

I don't know if you knew Mike but he was a most colourful character and an amazing speaker.

My fondest memory of him was as the Mayor of Dearne Valley, when he gave the traditional style Mayoral greeting to support Dearne Valley but in a mixture of English, French, Spanish, Italian and any other language he could make up. He was well padded up and gave a wonderful bumbling caricature of a local northern politician elevated well above his station in life. So wonderfully funny.

Of course the Dearne Valley Bid was legendary in JCI. The Bid was to host World Congress in Dearne Valley using redundant mine shafts and workings. The conference hotel was to be built and called the Dearne Valley Hilton. The illustration used was the New York Hilton - at night! The local ski slopes were the pyramids, the National President's home for the welcome party was Buckingham Palace and the local President's home was a picture of an outside lavatory taken in Manningham, Bradford. I once met a South African Senator who asked if I knew anyone from Dearne Valley as he had seen the Bid at Congress and



Mike in Manila in 1978 with fellow JCI Vice President Bill Potter

ht) - 30 years as Mayor of Dearne Valley

remembered it vividly and with the greatest possible affection. The story is now known by a reducing number and a summary in the Newsletter would bring back happy memories to the most wrinkly and amuse the young.

Trevor Smith
JCI Senator #45142



May the funeral do him justice

I'm sorry that we lost 'the Mayor' in such circumstances. As a JCI Staff Officer I spent many a mad moment with Mike in his heyday. He didn't shy away from having more fun than he was allowed. Very much my own mantra...

May the funeral do Mike justice. He would expect nothing less than a glass of wine on the coffin... and people telling endless funny stories.

Bill Potter
JCI Senator #22172

Mike in a nutshell

It was with great sadness that I received the news of Mike McKnight's passing away.

Of all the Jaycees I have met during all the years Mike was certainly one of the most likeable and memorable.

It all started at the Gothenburg World Congress in Göteborg 1979, where I happened to be the Congress Director. We had two bids for the 1981 JCI World Congress, one from Berlin and one from an unknown place in Britain called Dearne Valley. When I met the

Germans they were to say the least very concerned and nervous. What was believed as a straight victory a couple of weeks ago changed suddenly to a tough race against a totally unknown place somewhere in Britain. Through their advance intelligence they had only been able to get the information that their competitor was known for their closed coal mine (!). They were very frustrated...

We were only three persons, JCI WP Kumar Gera, JCI SG Carol Bouchard and I, who got the information that the bid was a fake. This was received when I for the first time met Mike together with John Eaton. I met a very serious Mr McKnight, the lawyer, the humorous guy, the "Mayor of Dearne Valley" and the very nice, ambitious and sincere person Mike, all in the same person.

The presentation at the congress is still without any doubt the very best JCI World Congress presentation ever made.

I will never forget the Lord Mayor of Dearne Valley (Mike) entering the stage with his dress and all the heavy original regalia making a presentation in **all languages at the same time!** And also his concluding remarks that we were all welcome to Dearne Valley were the doors are always open.... because some devil had kicked them down.

The congress presentation was not only unique because so many delegates fell off their chairs laughing but so did also

the interpreters. When they fell we found out that the Japanese understood more English than we knew.

Unfortunately just before the vote the BJC President announced that they had decided to withdraw the bid. I am sure that if they had stayed in the race we would have had a JCI World Congress in a coal mine.

I had a lot of contact during the years with Mike as our careers progressed.

1981 we were both elected as JCI Vice Presidents and were also in the same Barry Kennedy, JCI Executive Vice President Asian team, under JCI President Gary Nagao. We once again experienced the great personality of Mike. Always with his support, always with his willingness to share his experience, but most of all always with a joke at hand which made all our meetings so enjoyable. If the meetings were enjoyable this was nothing compared with our parties. A real funny English gentleman promoting Dearne Valley, Stoke and English ale. Many reasons why they just adored him in Asia.

Leadership is about motivating people. If you will come out more positive and enthusiastic from a meeting than when you entered you are on the right track. This was Mike in a nutshell. He always inspired us with his humour and positive attitude. I never once met Mike without a smile. I never left him without a smile.

That is how I will remember one of the greatest personalities I have met in JCI.

I am sure he is still smiling up there from his Dearne Valley Hilton.

Kjell Peterson
JCI Senator #25986
Göteborg World Congress Director
1981 JCI Vice President
JCI World President 1983

A strange noise

My strongest memory was being in General Assembly, when John and the Dearne Valley Team presented their bid in competition with Berlin who had submitted their bid on the express assurance that there wouldn't be an opposing bid!

I was sitting next to the assistant bid director for Osaka, who were organising the 1980 Congress. He was looking very surprised, as he believed Osaka were, like Berlin, to be the only bidders, and that the time for new bids had passed. I then told him that as long as there was only one candidate, it was possible for last-minute bids to be made right up until the day of presentation. As the Dearne Valley presentation went on, he got more and more upset and worried, and started to make a strange noise which I eventually traced to his breathing in and out loudly through his teeth. The more the laughter rolled out across the General Assembly room, the less happy our friend from Osaka looked - the emergence of a last-minute bidder "out of the blue" was clearly causing some concern to the Osaka team!

This is my strongest memory of the superb presentation bid.

Please correct my English as I am only a b—dy foreigner.

Björn Johnson
JCI Senator #27769





Albert Foodbotham (aka Mike McKnight)

Tributes continued

Memories of an Out of Tune Member of the Dearne Valley Miners Male Voice Choir

The bid presentation in General Assembly was the culmination of a week's sustained effort by the entire British Delegation including:

The hire of the "English Pub" in the theme park next to the conference centre where we sold the cheapest beer in Gothenburg until the costs had been recovered then we gave it away.

The VIP reception in the wardroom of a Royal Navy frigate which "just happened" to be on a goodwill visit in the harbour.

The British Party with the Royal Marines Band where I saw Margaret Eaton or was it Gloria Loosebody, I can't remember which, going through the bid document with some of the chief delegates.

A keynote speaker (from America, where else?) who told the conference that the Brits didn't have a sense of humour. We really showed them didn't we.

Hugh Facey had to write out a personal cheque for the bid deposit so that the Secretary General could certify that all requirements had been complied with. Hugh was very relieved when the cheque was returned to him uncashed.

We didn't see this as we were back stage but at the bid presentation, Berlin presented a slick multi-projector tape-slide show which was then followed by the Dearne Valley Team carrying on a home projector to laughter in the house.

We went on stage in total darkness and when the lights went up we saw an absolutely full house.

When the Mayor of Dearne Valley (Mike McKnight) spoke and came to the part of his speech in very fractured French a past World President was seen to grab his simultaneous translation earphone, I don't think he understood the joke.

However the Japanese translator did as she fell off her seat laughing.

I remember after the presentation, I was in the Gents washing the burnt cork off my face with Joe Murphy, later world president, just standing there shaking his head.

The sequel to this. A month later, Peter Moran, then Immediate Past National President, reporting to national council that he had had a phone call from the real mayor of Dearne Valley, or rather the Yorkshire town which includes the area of the Dearne Valley. Somehow he had got hold of a copy of the bid document and rang up to offer his assistance. Peter had to take him through the bid document to show that the whole thing was a spoof.

*David Granger
JCI Senator #30164*

Searching the Pubs

Back in the early 1980's in our Chamber, Buxton & High Peak Junior Chamber, Mike McKnight was our assigned officer from British Junior Chamber. The stories are legendary that he could never find the pub we were holding

our monthly meetings in and indeed our focus was more on playing cards than all that personal development or management training stuff!

Mike was a fundamental influence in getting us to go to Regional, National and even International events. Given that we went on to win the Leon Jessel trophy as the Best Chamber in British Junior Chamber and many other awards we owe much to him for his considerable perseverance and patience.

The last time I saw Mike was at the British Senate AGM Weekend at Wells last September and as usual we reminisced and he always sent his regards to his friends in the Buxton & High Peak area.

When I asked him if he was the same Michael McKnight who had prosecuted a well known personality in the Macclesfield area who was convicted of a serious drink driving event his face lit up and he told the story.

This individual crashed his car in the early hours of a Sunday morning and was rescued from his burning car by a taxi driver. That doesn't sound particularly odd but he was in



Mike having Lunch at the House of Commons during the Senate visit on 9th October 2007

fancy dress dressed as a black Roman gladiator. Mike as the prosecuting solicitor challenged the accused when he suggested it was not unusual for there to be Roman gladiators roaming the streets of Macclesfield in the early hours; to which Mike replied "so how many black Roman gladiators do you know in this area then?"

What a put down and Mike was well chuffed with achieving yet another resounding conviction in that swashbuckling manner of his.

Mike maybe gone but he will not be forgotten by us Buxton Senators.

*Phil Spring
JCI Senator #40459*

ht) - 30 years as Mayor of Dearne Valley

Invariably amusing

I first met Mike nearly thirty –five years ago when he was the dynamic President of the North Staffs Junior Chamber.

I drove through Hanley, Stoke on Trent, on the 9th July and passed two beautifully restored bottle kilns. I immediately thought of Mike, because North Staffs J C published a report over 30 years ago, which highlighted the loss of the industrial heritage of the “Five Towns” with the wholesale demolition of the bottle kilns. Mike and his colleagues alerted the Community to this loss and ensured that some of them survived, together with the traditional pottery crafts and artistry.

He was a great and proud promoter of his home town and I suspect many of his old friends are still proud possessors of his “limited edition” BJC china tankards !

It was on that day I intended to visit him, as we had not seen each other for some years and instead, I learned of his tragic death.

Mike was actively involved in the Midlands Regional Group (MRG) for a number of years, before graduating to national responsibilities. When Hugh Facey and I were National Presidents, he served us both with distinction as Legal Counsel. He was a solicitor in general practice but had an excellent understanding of good governance and parliamentary procedure. He went on to serve as National President himself in 1983 as well as a JCI Vice President in 1981 when he managed to avoid the head hunters of Borneo !

His stories of the Law were invariably amusing, as well as illuminating and I still remember his advice that has stood me in good stead, “never ask a witness a question to which you do not know the answer”! He shone in debate and had an oratory, which was powerful and accomplished.

Mike was good to be with, he was warm and loyal and it was a privilege to be counted as one of his friends; he will be much missed by many.

*Brian G Rees
JCI Senator #19450
BJC National President 1980*

Remembered with a huge smile

A Big Man from a tiny Chamber who soared to the greatest heights of the most fantastic young people’s organisation in the World. (and everywhere else, as Robert Ferris once said of his International Guests at his National Conference!)

He will be greatly missed but will always be remembered with a huge smile.

*Richard Heywood
JCI Senator #31358*

A lasting awareness

Hi Peter,

I was so sad to learn of Mike’s death - he was in so much of my Junior Chamber past - especially at National Level.

Mike was the Hon Legal Adviser to Brian Rees in 1980 when I was Vice President for Individual Development.

We both took a lower profile in 1981 but while I developed the PRIME course, Mike must have been girding his loins for his bid for National President.

He was elected as Deputy President in 1982 while I worked alongside him as Vice President for Business Competitions.

I served in the same capacity during Mike’s National Presidency in 1983.

Specific memories have faded over the years but there remains a lasting awareness of a wonderful guy, full of humour, who lived life to the full.

Sadly missed.

*Mike Hewson
JCI Senator #29666*

Mike comes to Dinner

During the many years that we were involved with BJC we hosted a lot of friends whilst they were on their travels - none loved their food and drink more than Mike, he was a pleasure to entertain. Our children were very young then and were always keen to know what we were preparing our guests to eat, particularly the desserts! After our guests had left the children would always raid the fridge for left over puds!! However, when we would announce that Mike was coming to dinner their little faces would drop and we would hear “oh no, that means there won’t be any pudding left!”

*Mike Mander
JCI Senator #27176
BJC National President 1985*

A brother’s memory

Patrick McKnight, Mike’s brother, told a story about Mike at the funeral and I thought everyone who was unable to attend might like to hear it.

When Mike was about 10 years old he was great friends with Cynthia, a girl from a neighbouring house, and they were always together. One day they were playing in the wooden playroom we had at the bottom of the garden.

They had got hold of a wooden clothes horse and a blanket and had made a tent inside the playroom and were going to play at ‘camping’. I knew how to make a ‘camp fire’ with an electric fire so I showed them how to do it. They then went to the local shop and bought some sausages and got hold of a frying pan.

For some reason I went out. When mother returned and found them she was furious.

Not because they could have burnt down the wooden playroom

Not because they could have electrocuted themselves

Not because they could have burnt themselves

Not because they used her best frying pan

Not because Mike could have poisoned Cynthia and himself with half cooked sausages

But because it was a Friday!





Albert Foodbotham (aka Mike McKnight)

Mike McKnight #28127

BJC President 1983



Past Presidents of British Junior Chamber

Back row: Mike Ashton 1973, Don Nicholson 1974, David Moran 1975, Brian Hawden 1976, Derek Broderick 1977, Peter Moran 1978, Hugh Facey 1979, Brian Rees 1980, George Wright 1981, Mike McKnight 1983

Front row: Jim Robertson - 1950-51, Don Aylett 1952-53, Peter Wood 1954-55, Leon Jessell 1955-56, Mervyn Andrews 1956-57, Robert Ferris 1982, Joe Bailey 1945-47, Tony Hepworth 62-63, Raymond Burn 1964-65, Ian Hope 1965-66

Mike joined Stoke-on-Trent Junior Chamber in the early 70's and became President in 1976 and two years later Chairman of the Midlands Regional Group.

I met Mike during my year as President of Belfast Chamber and we became great friends and decided to progress our Junior Chamber careers together. Junior Chamber was a deadly serious organisation and you mapped out your careers and when it came to elections you took no prisoners!

Being a solicitor by profession Mike became Hon Legal Advisor to BJC in 1980 and took great pleasure in handing down his judgements to Council and the Executive, as members quite often got themselves into trouble one way and other!

At the world congress in 1980 he was elected a JCI Vice President for 1981 and was assigned to Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and Papua New Guinea. We did tell him to watch out for the cannibalism in Papua New Guinea as he would be eyed up for the pot as he would make quite a substantial meal for the village!

So in January of 1981 he set off to re-process the Empire and was more a Governor General than a JCI Vice-President.

However he was somewhat taken aback when flying in Papua New Guinea when the passengers carried on board their ducks and chickens and to his bachelor horror some large ladies breast fed their children in front of him having just dipped their nipples in sugar! Now that's an in flight cocktail!

Coming to the end of his very colourful and successful year in September he decided to stand for Deputy President of BJC and therefore National President 1983.

I came across the October 1981 BJC News and I'll quote the editorial.

"The campaign road was long and hard and finally came to an end in the Annual General Meeting held during the National Conference at Leeds in September of this year. After the tense moments during which the votes had been counted George Wright announced that Mike McKnight (JCI Vice-President) has been elected as National Deputy President for 1982 and therefore National President for 1983. In his moment of glory for Mike one must pause to remember the loser. Rodney Spokes is a member of BJC of the highest calibre, a man who we should be grateful to. As the candidates address the AGM after the result had been announced it was with warmth that Mike was magnanimous in victory and it was a pleasure to witness such a good loser as Rodney. Long may they remain friends and long may the spirit of fellowship so evident in this competition remain affirmation of BJC's claim to be the best!"

Mike went on to be an excellent Deputy to me and a great National President.

In Junior Chamber you make wonderful and lifetime friends and Mike and I continued to visit each other in Belfast and Stoke for over 27 years.

Mike's greatest ability for twisting the English language and his bon mots most of which I could not possibly publish here will remain with me always.

It was a great sadness that he was not able to enjoy his forthcoming new car, house and retirement, but we are all grateful for the wonderful memories he has left us.

As someone said Mike will be enjoying his gin & tonic in the Hilton in the sky.

*Robert Ferris
JCI Senator #27663
National President, BJCC 1982*

ht) - 30 years as Mayor of Dearne Valley

Tributes continued

No Surprise

Mike was a person who easily comes to mind when his name is mentioned or put another way, Mike was a character you don't easily forget no matter how long the memory fades with the passage of time.

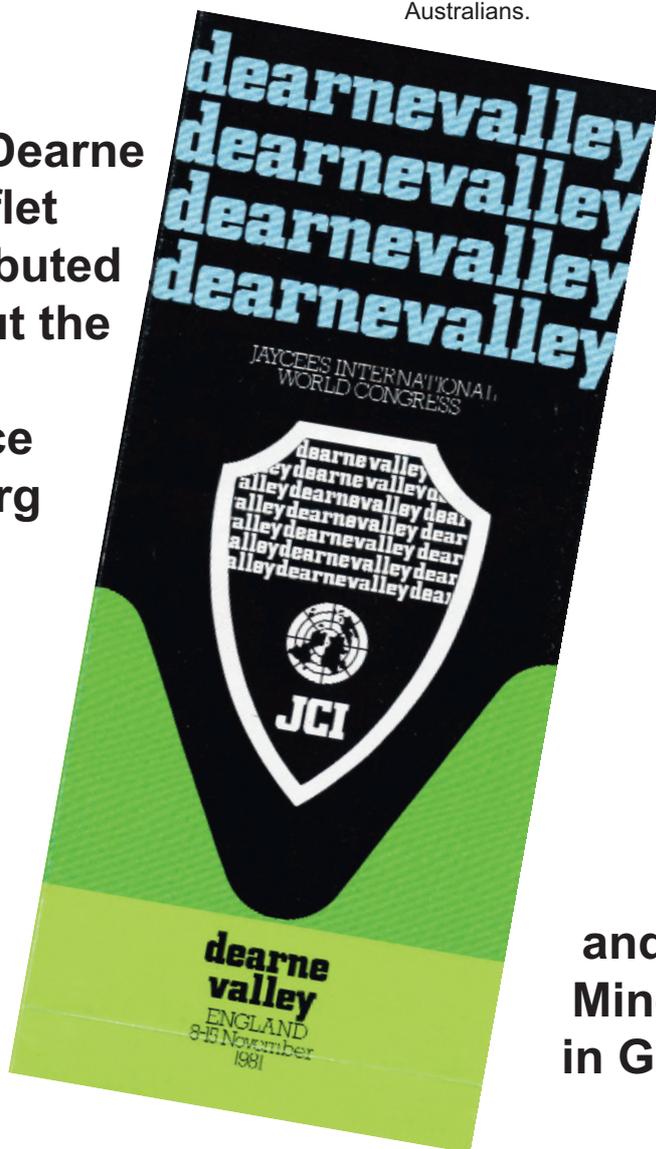
My memory of Mike goes back to my year as National President in 1976 when I chose to spend periods of time in the regions visiting grass root chambers firstly to bring the national organisation to them and secondly to see how they were actually getting on rather than limiting visits to the standard annual dinners.

It was on my visit to the North West that I met Mike as president of his Chamber and, apart from practising in the same profession, I was immediately struck by the easy nature and his falstaffian deep gurgling laugh that erupted from the depths of his stomach. Being the son of a lawyer, gave him a certain inbred confidence which is the basis of any ambition and as with certain other members making their way in BJC whom I met on my travels, it came as no surprise to learn of his subsequent National Presidency.

Whilst others will have more expansive memories of Mike, the memory I permanently retain is that of spending time with Mike and his chamber members and the home hospitality at his parents' home.

*Brian Hawden
JCI Senator #19193
BJC National President 1976*

The Vote Dearne Valley leaflet was distributed throughout the World Conference in Göteborg



From Down Under

We in Australia remember Mike during his visit down under during his year as JCI Vice President in 1981.

I first met Mike during the Gothenburg World Congress in 1979 and took an instant liking to the guy. He subsequently provided me with considerable assistance particularly leading up to my election as JCI Vice President in 1983 and Executive Vice President in 1984. Also during a number of visits I made to the United Kingdom for JCI.

Karen Chalmers who was the Secretariat Manager for Australian Jaycees remembers Mike as a larger than life character. When he visited her chapter, Brisbane Jaycees in 1981, the Brisbane crew hosted a "White Night for Mc Knight" and found that, like them, Mike enjoyed a party or two.

Bill Phillips, National President in 1981 remembers Mike with very fond memories and commented on the significant contribution he made as does Peter Snow, Conference Director for the Perth NOM Conference. Peter who hosted Mike during a visit to The Jaycees Community Foundation's Vital Call medical alert operation in Perth.

Greg Beard as JCI Vice President served on the same JCI Board in 1981. Greg says Mike was quick to learn that "taking the mickie outa ya-self" was a quick way to endear Australians.

Those years were very special for many of us and Mike was an important part of what are now some very nice memories for many past members of Australian Jaycees.

*Brev Johnson
JCI Senator #31632
JCI Executive Vice President 1984*

and the Miners Arms in Gothenburg!



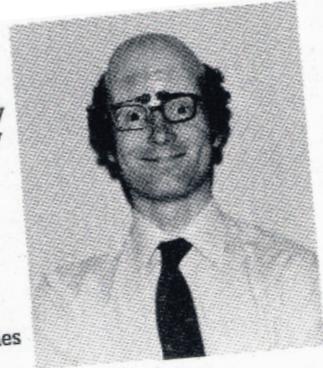
Dearne Valley voted Dearne Valley

It was the same Development Value which prompted the formation in 1979 of the Dearne Valley Jaycees, who in their 11 months of existence have already hosted a Regional Conference and carried out a nationwide project on the Future of the Mining Industry. Now with 34 members, the Chapter is itching to tackle a really major project which will utilise to the full the development potential both in the area and in the Chapter. After all, isn't "development" what Jaycees is all about? Nowhere is more ripe for development than Dearne Valley, so remember: -

D.V. = Dearne Valley Development Value - SEE YOU UNDERGROUND!!

- **WHERE YOU STAY**
At one of the 5 luxury hotels all within a good healthy walking distance of the Congress Centre. The main Conference hotel is the luxurious Pithead Hilton with its own indoor swimming pool, sauna, bowling alley and ice rink.
- **WHERE YOU WORK**
The famous Dearne Valley Conference Centre with its ultra-modern Meeting Rooms, inter-connecting subterranean passages and simultaneous translation facilities.
- **WHERE YOU PLAY**
At the get-acquainted party in the nationally renowned Tourist Grotto - in the Underground Ballroom - at the national parties - and at the Grand Ball in the capacious Scargill Suite of the nationally-famous brand-new Dearne Valley Leisure Centre.
- **WHAT YOU PAY**
The delegate's registration fee of £150 (£100 for Spouses) includes all the Conference functions and nine main meals, leaving only your hotel bill to pay. The cost of the rooms ranges from £25 a night at the Dearne Valley Waldorf to £2 a night at the 'Miners' Rest.
- **ET POUR LES DAMES**
A full programme of tours including a visit to a glass blowing factory - an afternoon of water sports in the exciting River Dearne - and sightseeing in the quaint olde worlde town of nearby Rotherham.
- **UND FÜR DIE KINDER**
A full Children's Programme of non-stop Fun and Games with full-time baby sitters available on request and all usual hotel facilities. Special equipment will be provided for the coal-mine visit.
- **AND FOR THE SENATORS**
A special Senate Programme with the accent on social activity - including a 12-course luncheon at the luxurious Sea View Hotel - an evening banquet at Harry Ramsdens - the World's largest Fish and Chippery - an escorted tour through Yorkshire's largest open-cast coal mine and a Civic Reception in the venerated Dearne Valley City Hall.

The prospect of hosting a World Congress in Dearne Valley provides the development opportunity for which our newly formed Chapter has been eagerly waiting. With 34 dead-keen Members impatient to "get their teeth into" a really big project - and with Dearne Valley itself really ripe for development, 1981 offers the Jaycee movement the chance to put into practice its principles of encouraging development.



Dearne Valley is famous for its scenic beauty, mining potential, and historic associations - and with the addition of a first-class underground Conference Centre, Dearne Valley is surely the ideal choice for a World Congress.

The theme is "Development for the Future" - a theme which is exemplified by Dearne Valley and the local Chapter both of which offer unrivalled opportunities for development. Much planning and hard work has been devoted to the proposed Conference Programme - sponsorship has been obtained and national Officers cannot believe the progress which has already been made.

We are looking forward to meeting our International colleagues in Dearne Valley in November and promise you a memorable Conference. As they say in Yorkshire: - "If tha' ivver does owt fer nowt, do it fer thissen!"

John C. Eaton
John C. Eaton
Conference Director



whiteheads
the printers

of Snow Hill Wolverhampton extend their compliments and greetings to all delegates to the World Congress 1981.

Dearne Valley
Building Society

- The Miner's Choice -
welcomes Jaycees the World over to Dearne Valley and is happy to be associated with the
1981 WORLD CONGRESS

They even
splashed out
on a colour leaflet!



votedearnevalleyvotedearnevalley
votedearnevalleyvotedearnevalley
votedearnevalleyvotedearnevalley
votedearnevalleyvotedearnevalley

Sponsors of this Mike McKnight & Dearne Valley Tribute

<i>John Eaton</i>	<i>#19170</i>
<i>George Wright</i>	<i>#24203</i>
<i>Hugh Facey</i>	<i>#25921</i>
<i>Kjell Peterson</i>	<i>#25986</i>
<i>Mike Mander</i>	<i>#27176</i>
<i>David Grainger</i>	<i>#30164</i>
<i>Richard Heywood</i>	<i>#31358</i>
<i>Neil Kaiper-holmes</i>	<i>#31409</i>
<i>C Richard Jackson</i>	<i>#31757</i>
<i>John Maguire</i>	<i>#35841</i>
<i>Phil Spring</i>	<i>#40459</i>

Thanks

Thanks go to Trevor (Smith) for planting the seed of the idea for this booklet; John (Eaton) for providing much of the material, the initial impetus and the first promise of money and finally George (Wright) for twisting arms (or whatever he did) to extract promises for the extra money needed to provide space for the deluge of content that came.

Most of all thank you to all the sponsors who put their hands in their pockets and made this booklet that went from 8 black & white pages to full colour and eventually a grand 16 pages.

If any Senators would like to make a donation in memory of Michael the address is.

The Administrator,
St. Mary's Home,
Margaret Street,
Stone,
Staffordshire

Please make cheques payable to "St. Mary's Home"

