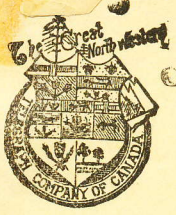


AUGUST 1909

MERRETT — At Montreal, on Thursday, 26th August, 1909, the wife of T. E. Merrett, of a son.



FORM No. 1.

# The Great North Western Telegraph Company of Canada.

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

All messages are received by this Company for transmission, subject to the terms and conditions printed on their Blank Form No. 2, which terms and conditions have been agreed to by the sender of the following message. This is an unrepeatable message, and is delivered by request of the sender under these conditions.

H. P. DWIGHT,  
President.

HEAD OFFICE: TORONTO.

I. McMICHAEL,  
Vice-President and General Manager.

REC'D No.	FROM	SENT BY	REC'D BY	TIME	CHECK
		K	W	7:42 PM	9 Paid

From Montreal 2 26/8/09/ Little Metis 26/8/ 1909

To Mrs. Benson  
Boule Rock Hotel

Katie and son doing well tell Children  
am writing

Ned.

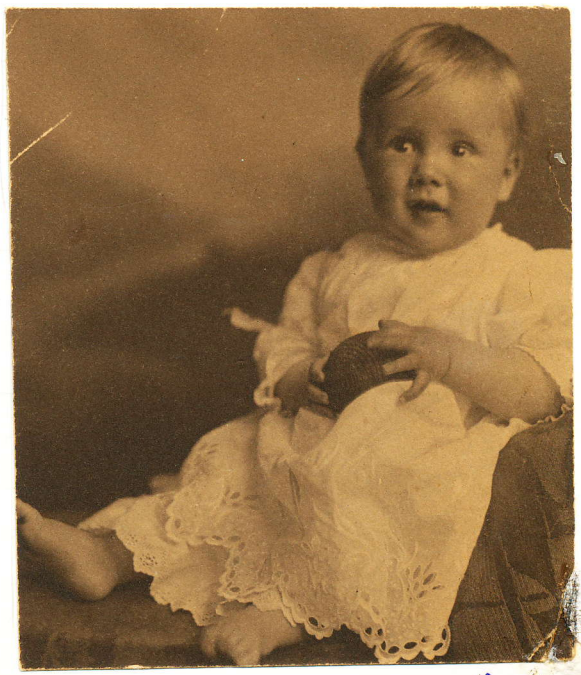
Direct Connection with WESTERN UNION TEL. CO.

CABLE SERVICE to all the World.

I would tend to reject as grossly exaggerated any suggestion that I was born with a silver spoon\* in my mouth, though I was certainly given one, and a silver pusher, suitably engraved, at my christening.

However, as life unfolded, what became more and more evident to me was that I had unquestionably been born under a lucky star, as will surely be discernible between the lines of this biography.

\* Well - perhaps silver-plated? All things are comparative.



Baptism, October 17<sup>th</sup> 1909  
Christ Church Cathedral  
(Precocious for 7 1/2 weeks?) Montreal

Montrealers who could used always to escape the heat and stickiness of summer in the city by taking to the mountains, lakes or seaside. For this purpose the Merretts chose Metis Beach, 400 miles northeast on the St. Lawrence River, where many Montrealers had for years established themselves in summer hotels and cottages. Thus it was that in the late summer of 1909 the three teenage Merrett children were enjoying the tennis, golf and cool ozone of the Lower St. Lawrence in the care of their Aunt Daisy (Father's sister Agnes) and the company of two cousins, while their poor Mother was confined first in the heat of the city and then in the Royal<sup>1</sup> Victoria Hospital awaiting the birth of her fourth child, which took place on August 26<sup>th</sup>.

It is not to question my parents' behaviour to suggest that my arrival<sup>2</sup> on the scene had not been consciously planned, rather had been an accident or at best the result of a belated celebration of Dad's latest promotion and their return to the Province of their births. In any event, these 42 and 43 year old parents seemed in no way dismayed and along with the enthusiastic older kids set about making me feel at home. This they did by proceeding to spoil me as fast as they could, and I rapidly began to experience the various advantages and disadvantages normally the lot of an only child.

- <sup>middle &</sup>  
<sup>1</sup> In the latter years of my professional life I had occasion to spend many hours in the Royal Victoria Hospital where had ended my sojourn "up in camp" - to use the term invented in his childhood by my imaginative elder brother for the embryonic phase of life - but I cannot recall ever experiencing any vibrations, let alone any nostalgia, which could be attributed to having first seen in it the light of day. It came about that I recommended and designed a replacement for that East Wing which had ~~been~~<sup>housed</sup> the maternity ward, but the historic landmark still stands - albeit often & drastically altered.
- <sup>2</sup> Were one's initials other than "J.C." one might have used the word "advent".