

MAST-INGLE, Charles Arthur

Charles MAST-INGLE | 20 May 1942 - 1 May 1964

CHARLES ARTHUR² MAST-INGLE (HAROLD ROYDON¹) was born on 20 May 1942 in Parktown North, Johannesburg, South Africa and died on 1 May 1964 in Johannesburg, South Africa. He married LYNNETTE ELEANOR TERRELL on 11 August 1962 in Johannesburg, South Africa. She was born 13 November and died July 1993 in Tasmania. CHARLES was the son of PHYLLIS ELAINE FLEMMER⁷ FLEMMER (ARTHUR CLAUDE⁶, CHRISTIAN LUDVIG⁵) born on 22 November 1911 in Witbank, Transvaal, South Africa and died on 25 May 1998 in Claremont, Cape Town, South Africa.

Charles was the second son of Harold Roydon & Phyllis Elaine nee Flemmer. His older brother Wren was two and a half years old when Charles was born. Charles was blue eyed with blond hair a true Flemmer. His Godparents were Eric Forster, (Mast Industries). Leslie Lowe & Felicite Lowe. (Felicite was Harolds cousin).

His brother Wren and sister Fay write:

Charles, our fair-headed, Blue-eyed (in more ways than one for the folks) brother remained mostly a mystery to us. We grew up as kids, played together in the usual way and perhaps his drive in his foreshortened life, through a car accident in May 1964, came from always trying to keep up with his elder brother.

I am not sure how Mom coped with us three. From pranks to illness, it must have been uphill all the way. One day Charlie (as Mom often called him) and Wren prepared a surprise for Mom when she came home from work. We covered ourselves in tomato sauce and as she walk in rolled around on the passage floor pretending we were fighting. Well! When she recovered from her near heart attack, she got the broom and chased us all over the show.

At school, he was average, never failing and always getting along. He attained a university clearance in matric though, no mean feat for those days. Although he had a slight attack of polio in the early fifties, before his teens, he became an accomplished athlete especially in long distance running during and just after his schooling. He held the mile record at Roosevelt High School for many years and became the South African mile champion under 17. The record at Roosevelt is still unbroken. Charles was a prefect in Std V his teacher wrote in the school magazine: Among the prefects, those of you have combined good work with a high standard of sportsmanship are Charles Mast-ingle etc. you have successfully endeavoured to "Be worthy of the name" (the schools motto) and I shall follow your future progress with interest (Clare Price). He excelled in Cubs and Scouts obtaining his Queens Scout badge on the 19.09.1958.

His two main hobbies in young adulthood were music and golf. He also had a wonderful streak of fun, generosity and loving about him, the latter coming from Mom in her ways.

He was only moderately tall with a barrel chest (to house lungs developed in training for running) and what can only be described as a 'hooked' nose which as a child always got in the way and always bled. I can't count the number of times he was laid back on the sofa or bed, Mom patting a wet cloth on his forehead. Being very accident prone he also broke his left arm three times.

He was the first person in South Africa to play the piano Jerry Lee Lewis style, whacking away while standing up and his voice was great for the rock times. We had a band while still at school which consisted of Charles on the piano, myself (Wren) on the sax, Noel Williams on the drums and Fransie Boschhoff on the T-box as bass. Later Fransie dropped out and Rob Wishart took over the drums with Noel singing and playing the guitar (about 1957) the double garage downstairs became our entertainment area where the three-quarter sized billiard table was housed. It was the scene of many a thumping teenage party judging by the neighbours' reaction.

We had memorable trip to Katberg, packing the boys and instruments into my first car which was Dads old Hillman. I had sprayed it two-tone black and blue. We only had petrol money but nevertheless, set off for a month's holiday. We arrived at Katberg at the beginning of December 58 (I think) and I negotiated with the owners. They gave us a short audition and we finally negotiated for Charles playing cocktail hours and the band for three evenings of the week in return for accommodation and food. To add to our income, we managed to get a couple of gigs at the nearby Piggs Peak Hotel. All in all it was great particularly as we were able to meet all the girls. After Katberg we headed for Scottburg where it was all happening on the South Coast and had a whale of a time before coming home.

My relationship with brother Charles who was two years younger than myself consisted mainly of interaction in the kitchen when we sometimes cooked or raided the fridge for goodies. We once had a competition to see who could get the biggest dagwood into our mouths and another time, who could eat the most.... boy were we sick. I wonder if Mom ever knew the truth.

In April 1959 Charles took part in South African junior athletics competition in Cradock with 160 competitors from 12 provincial associations. In the one Mile under 17, Charles came first in a time of 4 min 38.2 sec. Running for Natal university in 1960 he set up a new Natal record for the one mile, under 18 his time 4 min. 36.8 sec. 23.10.1960 - under 18 one mile Charles finished 4 min 35 sec. Beating the previous record of 4 min 40 sec. He represented Southern Transvaal Junior Championship, as a member of the Wanderers Athletic club.

Charles went off to varsity in Durban to study a B.Com but gave it up after a year to go into insurance. Much to Dad's horror, he was hoping that Charles would come into Mast Industries. He was an absolute star and became the youngest person in the country to sell a million rands worth of insurance policies in one year. Federated Insurance, his company had promised him the earth as soon as he was 25 as he could not become a manager before then. He did not mind as he was making a bucket from commissions.

Charles met and married Lyn Terrell, on the 11th April 1962, she was a nurse who was a little older than himself. The arrangement was unhappy and Charles had a lot of difficulty in handling the issue. They had a daughter Megan, who was a year old when her Dad was killed. Lyn remarried and went to live in Tasmania.

The year that Fay got married, I came down from the Copperbelt and Charles and I had a wonderful time during that weekend. We were in charge of some of the arrangement including the champagne. We stashed a box away and in addition to all the other boozing, managed to flatten the case during the course of the weekend. We had a lot of fun.

"The Federated" Monthly 'Life' Newsletter; 19 May 1964

Obituary

We sadly record the tragic death of Charles Mast-Ingle as a result of a car accident on the 1st May.

Charles joined the Federated in Durban in 1962 and was transferred to Johannesburg shortly afterwards. During his first full year with the Company he exceeded R250,000 net production and was Vice President of our Quarter Million Club for the current year. His enthusiasm for work and determination to succeed was a constant inspiration to all who were associated with him. To his wife, Lyn, and to his parents, the Management and staff of the Federated extend their sincere sympathy.