

Tribute by Paul Giles

Today we are farewelling one of the nicest people you will have had the privilege to meet.

I am honoured that Shirley, Anne and family have given me this opportunity to share my thoughts and reflect upon the enjoyment that Maurice brought to all of us.

Maurice, or Maurie, as many of us knew him, was my first boss.

He commenced his career at Waterloo Pharmacy after leaving Hutt Valley High School as a 16-year old in 1955. He became a partner with Mr Hutchison in 1961 and then became sole owner in 1969. His commitment to the profession saw him as President of the Wellington Branch of the Pharmaceutical Society for a number of years during the 70's.

My family moved to the suburb of Waterloo from Auckland in 1965 and Mr Payes became our family chemist. My mum was a big fan of Mr Payes and always trusted his sage and caring advice.

My career in pharmacy started in 1974, when I commenced my internship at Waterloo Pharmacy. These were the days when every new age man received 'Old Spice' in their Christmas stocking and fashionable women were wearing 'Charlie' perfume. New technology in the dispensary came in the form of an electric typewriter - this added amazing speed to the 2-finger typed medicine labels.

Work was fun - we shared good humour and Maurie imparted his professional knowledge in a way that meant I was really enjoying my new career. That was a time when the pharmacist still did a lot of compounding - '*secundem artem*' was the Latin term for the art of preparing cough mixtures (Pectoral Balsam was a Waterloo specialty), creams, lotions and ointments, suppositories, tomato sauce essence and many things besides. We had a dermatologist by the name of Dr Hamilton-Gibbs practising in Lower Hutt in those days - when one of his scripts was presented, you knew there was at least an hour of compounding to be done!

But aside from the professional skills, Maurie just enjoyed looking after people. He was the genuine caring community pharmacist who had compassion and understanding for everyone who sought his advice.

So, I quickly learnt that while success in pharmacy was a little bit about pills and potions, more importantly the care and kindness shown to customers was what they appreciated most. Following Maurie's example has given me

many years of enjoyment in pharmacy. While in those early days Maurie was my mentor, we became the best of friends and that has never changed.

Now, a little story from the history books of Waterloo Pharmacy... Maurie had a good friend by the name of Mort Thompson, who always called Maurice by the name of 'Curly'! They had hair styles that were very similar – quite a wide parting! One morning I arrived to open the pharmacy (probably a Wednesday because that was Maurie's golf day) to find a large sign on the pharmacy window that read:

"This is New Zealand's national hair care week. Our consultant Mr Curly Payes B.A.L.D. NZ, will be instore for personal consultations. Come and see what professional hair care has done for him!"

I thought will I take it down or let it stay – I let it stay so he too could enjoy the humour intended.

At the age of 77, when Maurice retired, he was quoted as saying *"I've had the same wife, the same house, and the same job for 56 years. I decided it was time to change something, so I chose the job!"*

Over the years, Maurie certainly had some health challenges of his own, but showed immense determination and resilience to overcome these challenges. While Shirley and family may have witnessed a grumpy patient at times, to the rest of us he appeared to have taken it in his stride, maintained a sense of humour and was always thinking about others before himself.

We will all miss you Maurice – your kindness and caring, your selflessness and always thinking of others, and not to mention your wonderful sense of humour and great story-telling.

To Shirley, Anne, Andrew, Ollie and Henry, I know you will always treasure your many wonderful memories of a very fine husband, father and grandfather.

Rest in peace, Maurice.