

"The (Farewell) Dinner was marvellous. I was very pleased with the big card which everyone signed. I've read it many times. And I was very happy with the letters and particularly the telexes from Bob Stevenson and Merlin Nelson and the whole board of AMF."

So said Peter Pratt, on his recent retirement as AMF Australia Company Secretary.

Peter retired due to continuing ill health. Although he never complained, obviously life is pretty hard with almost constant arthritic pain, but rest helps a lot. He and his wife Beryl hope to travel around the globe when he "comes good".

Peter's position with AMF was the second job in his life, apart from being conscripted into the Navy from 1941-1946 during World War II.

PETER PRATT RETIRES FROM AMF

"I left school at 16 and went straight into a firm of London Accountants. I gradually began auditing companies and became a general economic advisor, working directly with clients," Peter said of his first job.

"I felt stuck in my work, until my wife convinced me (after two years of talking about it) that Australia was the place to go. She had been writing to friends over here.

"I spent my last three days in London with the boss and a tape recorder, giving him notes on my clients and advice on how to carry on — then we flew out on June 30, 1966."

A relative had arrived a few weeks earlier and had rented a house for them at Avalon, a northern beach suburb of Sydney.

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Mr. West (left) and Peter Pratt discuss Peter's retirement.

FROM AMF MAGAZINE

DAD RETIRED AROUND 1982

RETIREES

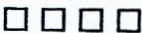
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The Pratts purchased the house three months after moving in, and still live there, after carrying out many months of weekend renovation work.

"I had accumulated 8 weeks of leave, and thought I'd mosey around for a while, but the insecurity of no income made me search the Sydney Morning Herald for a job, and I saw one for an Accountant to look after Bowling Centres for AMF."

The timing was perfect, as far as Peter was concerned. "AMF had acquired 15 Centres in one hit and needed someone to help start it off."

"They were wonderful years. Bill Rose, the financial controller, Brendan O'Connell, from a bureau computer service, and I put the show on the road.



"It's difficult to capture the moments in writing, but I do recall people like Lindsay Crump and Ken Bruns, when we went to Melbourne to takeover six Centres on New Years Day, 1967.

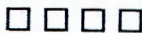
"We had to get around, showing the staff the AMF forms and stationery in a very short time. AMF has always been insistent on having reports in on time.

"There were many good times during these trips, and a lot of fun while we were achieving our goals."

Peter was soon appointed as Chief Accountant for all divisions of AMF Australia, then later as company secretary.

"I had always worked closely with Mr. West from the start because of his knowledge in bowling operations, but learning company law to be Company Secretary was different.

"Both Mr. West, a trained lawyer, and Mr. Stevenson, a company director, were indispensable in my learning process — I felt really part of a strong team."



At the after-hours farewell function held at the Chatswood Club, it was obvious to the large gathering of Head Office staff, Bowling Centre Managers, Cuno, Tyre, Electrical and Bowling Sales and Services employees, that Managing Director, Mr. Roy West held the highest esteem and affection for Peter.

Mr. West presented a gift to Peter and Beryl and thanked Peter for his considerable contributions to AMF Australia during the company's development years, and especially for his personal counsel to himself and other senior product managers on a large variety of subjects.

Peter's office was frequently used as a sort of "Company Confessional" where many ideas and problems were discussed before decisions were made.

Mr. West paid sincere tribute to Peter's outstanding commercial acumen; his depth of understanding in tax matters in particular and accounting practice in general; the high standards that he set for himself and the Company and his willingness to help others.

In responding, Peter thanked Mr. West for his kind remarks and in his characteristically quiet manner stated that he was proud to have been known for his high ethical standards and the quality of his counsel, as these were the goals that he had striven for during his years with AMF.

The strength of any company lies in its people — few companies have been better served than AMF has been by Peter Pratt.