A life of service and accomplishments

Alexander Barclay Ewart was born into a working-class family in Rae Town, St. Ann’s Bay, and his mother at 10 years old and went off to boarding school. After 18 months at Munroe, he transferred to Jamaica College (JC) where his sporting prowess was nurtured and blossomed. He never saw himself as a professional athlete, and in the 1950s, athletics was only a sport. He always saw sports as one of the things he loved, but it was never his dream to earn a living at sports. Nevertheless, he gave it his all, as he did with all that he attempted. His academic work and sport alternated in importance at different times in his life, and the sport facilitated the academic as it opened special doors for him. In 1951, Barclay represented JC in Class 2 at Schoolboy Championships, and he placed third in the 220 yard and fourth in the 440 yards. In 1952, he came up against the same boys who had thwarted him the previous year. That year, JC could only beat Kingston College (KC) if they got first and second place in the 220 yards Class 1, which was the last event of the meet. Thanks to that failure, having just started his law degree, he took his first job selling office equipment.

In 1953, his second year in JC, he went into private business and took over from a friend as the manager of a small chemical company. The company was called Tanner’s Ltd, and it started as a small leather goods company in the late 1940s. It was a family business, and in 1954, he and his brother took over the business and diversified the company into producing aluminium sulphate, sulphonic acid, and detergents. In 1970, the company manufacturing sulphuric acid with a small 10-ton-per-day facility, and diversified the company into producing sulphuric acid with a small 10-ton-per-day facility, and diversified the company into producing aluminium sulphate, sodium sulphate, sodium sulfate, and detergents. In 1970, he established Tanner’s Ltd to manufacture leather from local cattle hides and goatskins. In 1980, when the manufacturing operation collapsed, he went into the business of making shoes and a wide range of leather goods in order to provide a market for the leather.

In so doing, he saved an important segment of industry in Jamaica to the benefit of farmers. In 1987, he established Power and Tractors Ltd, to become the Caterpillar dealer in Jamaica. He also invested in banking and coffee farming.

TRUe INDUSTRIALISTS

Barclay stood as one of the true industrialists in Jamaica. His penchant had been to develop areas that others were too lazy or unimaginative to explore. He saw in the farm of the cynics who said that Jamaican business people were only interested in short-term returns. His philosophy was to grow in industries that had a minimum of imported inputs, a maximum of local and replenishable raw material with great foreign exchange potential. He also worked with a Spanish group of developers to develop a 270-acre property just east of Falmouth in Trelawny as a tourist community. He was a director and major shareholder of the following companies:

- Industrial Chemical Ltd
- Mael Ltd
- Taner’s Ltd
- Olive and Tractors Ltd – sold in 2009
- Tanner’s Ltd
- BRC Jamaica Ltd
- DB&G Ltd
- CRM TV Ltd
- Leder Mode Ltd

He had also given service in the following organizations:

- Chairman of Jamaica Industrial Development Co
- Chairman of the Scientific Development Co
- Chairman of BRC Jamaica Ltd
- Member of the Economic Advisory Council of the Prime Minister 1989-92
- Director of the Gleaner Company.

He recognized that it was to his country and its people that he gave his time, knowledge and the best of his abilities. Those of us who had the opportunity to interact with Mr. Ewart remember him for his humility, readiness to give a listening ear, the respect he displayed for our opinions and his wealth of knowledge of Jamaica’s business and political history.

Alexander Barclay Ewart: A life of service and accomplishments

Mr. Ewart, who served as a valued member of the DBJ Board since December 2007, brought his wide business experience and unique analysis to all deliberations. He was always a gentleman in his interpersonal relations with colleagues, bringing not only knowledge to the resolution of difficult issues and practical solutions to seemingly insurmountable problems.

Mr. Ewart was always a true industrialist and always sought to do what was right for the country and the development of the people. Therefore, it was no surprise that he served his nation as a Senator in one political administration, and as an appointee in another.

He was asked to sit on the Board of the Development Bank of Jamaica when he was 37 years of age. The Board of Directors, management and staff of the Development Bank of Jamaica wish to pay tribute to Barclay Ewart who died suddenly on February 1, 2012.

The Partners and Staff of Ernst & Young join with the Akai Group of Companies in commemorating the life of the late Alexander Barclay Ewart.

“The final test of a leader is that he leaves behind in others the conviction and will to carry on.”

Walter Lippmann

TRIBUTE TO

Alexander Barclay Ewart

August 4, 1935 - February 1, 2012

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A good man who lived a full life

MY RELATIONSHIP with Barclay Ewart commenced when we were boys at Jamaica College. I knew him beyond his sporting achievements as we moved in much the same circle of friends. Although an outstanding athlete and a school hero, it never went to his head. He was always a modest person and he accepted his success graciously.

I lost track of Barclay for a few years when he went abroad to Notre Dame University, but re-established my friendship when he returned and took a job as a salesman with National Cash Register Company selling office equipment and business machines.

Over the past 50 years, Barclay and I had both a personal friendship and business relationship built on trust and respect. Our business relationship began with Barclay’s purchase of shares in Industrial Chemical Company in the 1960s and continued during his chair of the Jamaica Industrial Development Corporation when I was Minister of Industry and Commerce in the 1970s. In 1980, I was asked to become a director of his Alkali Group and have been chairman for the past 10 years.

These relationships taught me a lot about Barclay. I came to realise that he was a true nationalist who loved his country with a passion. He was also a true industrialist and entrepreneur who was not only interested in short-term gains. He was quite willing to invest time and money in long-term projects. His wish was to help Jamaica become a better place for all Jamaicans to live in. Barclay was also passionate about his family. He loved his family and was a devoted father.

All in all, Barclay was a very rounded person. He loved his family and devoted time to them. He loved his business and the chemical industry. He was disciplined and structured in everything he did. He was a good man who lived a full life. As bitter as his sudden death was, we feel privileged to have called him our friend.

R. DANNY WILLIAMS
CHAIRMAN
ALKALI GROUP OF COMPANIES

The Board and Members of the Jamaica Chamber of Commerce are saddened by the sudden passing of Mr. Alexander Barclay Ewart, who has been a member of the JCC for more than 40 years.

Mr. Ewart was a pioneer in the Island’s manufacturing industry, having guided the Alkali Group of Companies as Chairman and Managing Director. Under his inspired leadership, the group experienced tremendous growth. Among the companies under the Alkali Group are Industrial Chemical Company; Tanners Limited; Power & Tractors Limited and the internationally renowned Leder Mode Limited.

He also served on the board of several companies and organizations.

We salute this true entrepreneur and industrialist, who was bold enough to lead the establishment of a successful industrial chemical sector among other businesses.

We at the JCC were fortunate to have known and interacted with Barclay, who was focus-minded, result oriented and never afraid to take on a challenge.

We extend our condolences to his widow Diedre, daughters and other members of his family.

Milton Samuda
President

THE GLEANER, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2012 | BARCLAY EWART FEATURE
The man many wish to emulate

REGENCY MARATHON Ltd and the Jamdammers Running Club will miss our chairman, honorary Jamdammer member and friend, Alexander Barclay Ewart. He was the man we all wanted to be – running to date in a week’s down-to-earth, astute and successful businessman with an unparalleled sense of humour, friend to all and enemy of none.

Barclay always ran in Constant Spring Golf Club, and though we do not have the exact date he began, we know it was pre-hurricane Gilbert, circa 1988. Barclay’s steady and consistent running performance was perhaps honed from his earlier experiences of plying a select band of elite sprinters by serving the 100, 220 and 440 yards, and anchoring the victorious Jamaica College sprint relay team at Champs in 1954.

His love for athletics never diminished and, for the last few years, Barclay was an escort to Champs, cheering for JC and taking note of emerging talent while wading amongst fellow Jamdammers at the National Stadium.

Barclay assumed the Chair of Reggae Marathon Ltd in 2006. He always sought to spur us on to excellence in addition to being hands-on during the event, personally greeting our overseas media at our Friday-night media briefs and handing out prizes.

At another level, Barclay was intimately involved in celebratory birthday and important milestones, and was very generous and supportive of Jamdammer endeavours in addition to being a wise and moderate influence during our highly charged post-run discussions. Reggae Marathon Ltd, the Jamdammers Running Club and the wider running fraternity will miss his friendship, commitment and support and guidance. We will, however, cherish and continue his magnificent legacy as we have all been enriched by having known this gentle giant.

A captain steering his ship in a manner that made no task seem insurmountable. Using known this gentle giant.

A captain steering his ship in a manner that made no task seem insurmountable. Using

THE GLEANER, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2012 | BARCLAY EWART FEATURE D3

Barclay Ewart touched the lives of many Jamaicans through his pioneering work in the local manufacturing industry while he successfully developed, grew and managed a set of companies that engaged in business for the local and export sectors.

Under his leadership, direction and guidance the companies emerged not only as leaders in their respective niches to satisfy the needs of the local market but also penetrated markets in Central America, South America, USA and as far as Russia in the process becoming multiple winners of JEA and JMA annual awards. The companies continue to provide essential intermediary and raw materials for the local bauxite industry, electrical power generation plants: national water treatment facilities, the food manufacturing, baking and hotel industries as well as the retail trade for consumer goods.

He had an enduring faith, confidence and belief in the ability of Jamaicans to perform at technical and skilled levels equivalent to their counterparts anywhere and the companies provided employment for hundreds of workers with a range of managerial, technical, skilled and unskilled competences. Mr. Ewart led by example in giving of his time and energy to make his business work. He had a disarming disposition which allowed him to interact with his employees at all levels in a manner that made no task seem insurmountable.

Mr. Ewart’s passing was a shock to all of us. We salute him for his outstanding leadership and his role in developing the companies and touching our lives in a special way. His legacy will surely have all been enriched for having known this gentle giant.

Like a captain steering his ship, in a manner that made no task seem insurmountable.

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THE PRESIDENT and board of directors of the Jamaica Exporters’ Association extend condolences to the family, friends, staff of the Alkali Group and colleagues of Alexander Barclay Ewart.

A long-standing member of the Jamaica Exporters’ Association, Barclay Ewart was passionate about Jamaica and was committed to the growth and development of not only Jamaica’s export sector, but also the Jamaican economy. This commitment was evident during his tenure on the board and the invaluable contribution he made to the development of the sector, including his work in helping to frame the National Industrial Policy for the country.

We salute Barclay Ewart for over 40 years of service to the manufacturing and exporting sector. He served as chief executive officer and chairman of the board of the Alkali Group, director of the Jamaica Exporters’ Association, chairman of USAFF and a former senator. An exemplary businessman, Barclay Ewart was a modest, warm individual who never lost the common touch. Jamaica and the region’s business community are blessed to have benefited from the life and work of Alexander Barclay Ewart. May his memory and work live on.

VITUS EVANS
PRESIDENT
JAMAICA EXPORTERS’ ASSOCIATION

NEW MARK REPRESENTACIONES, S. de R.L. de C.V. REPRESENTANTES Y DISTRIBUIDORES

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Fax: 2236-5826

March 02 2012

LYNDEE NUGENT
General Manager
Industrial Chemical Company
Jamaica

Dear Mr. Nugent:

With very deep regret we have known for your letter of the death of our dear and esteemed friend Alexander “Barclay” Ewart with whom we had the honor and pleasure to share pleasant business moments and sincere friendship, and share his experiences of its great trips, which he treasured in a very important chapter of his productive and interesting life.

In friendship we profess born of commercial relations, we made us good friends and proactive in that friendship, we believe that he was even better person, remember his vitality, his happiness, his humor, his pleasure at the table, feelings that were worthy of sharing as we enjoyed his company on his trips to Honduras.

It is pleasant to remember that his co-workers and friends showed him as a great husband, a wonderful father and an excellent business man, senator, as in numerous national positions in the private and public sectors, and he never stopped his innovation, planning, management, counseling, coordination and especially his sense of support and collaboration and having reached his untimely death, we can only ask God Almighty that he rests in His Kingdom and His Glory and spiritual strength to his family, Mrs. Desiré and (3) daughters, and all his staff at ICC.

This feeling of sadness and pain is shared by the President, Directors, Officers and employees of New Mark Representaciones, S. de R.L. de C.V.

Best Regards,

Schaery, Luis, Eduardo Kafie
And all Staff of New Mark Representaciones, S. de R.L. de C.V., Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

Cc: file

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VITUS EVANS
PRESIDENT
JAMAICA EXPORTERS’ ASSOCIATION
We’ve lost a stalwart

ALEXANDER BARCLAY Ewart was a champion for manufacturing who significantly contributed to the development of industry, particularly the chemicals subsector. He was pivotal in the establishment of the Alkali Group of Companies, including Industrial Chemical Company and Liquid Moulding, which are currently members of the Jamaica Manufacturers’ Association (JMA).

Mr Ewart was a leader, an entrepreneur and an avid businessman who believed in giving service to one’s country. He served as a director of the JMA for a number of years, as well as on several other boards, including the Scientific Research Council, the Private Sector Organization of Jamaica, CVM Television, the Gleaner Company and the Development Bank of Jamaica. The manufacturing and export sectors have truly lost a stalwart and a strong advocate for industrial development. The JMA extends condolences to Mr Ewart’s family and extended family at the Alkali Group.

BRIAN PENGELLEY
PRESIDENT OF THE JAMAICA MANUFACTURERS’ ASSOCIATION LTD.

1991: COLUMBUS CHAT! Senator Barclay Ewart (right), commissioner of the Quincentennial Commission, explains to minister of state in the Ministry of Education, Burchell Whiteman (back to camera), and Minister of Tourism Senator Frank Pringle details of the plans by the Commission to commemorate the quincentennial year of the Americas in 1992 in Spain and 1994 in Jamaica, to coincide with the 500th anniversary of Christopher Columbus’ visit to the Caribbean.

The Directors, Management & Staff of Maritime General Insurance Brokers all extend our heartfelt condolences to the family of Mr. Alexander Barclay Ewart & the Alkali Group family.

May your fond memories of him be a comfort during this time & know that you are all in our hearts and prayers.

Barclay Ewart
A TRUE JAMAICAN

The Management and Staff of National Supply Co Ltd wish to express our deep regret at the passing of Mr A. Barclay Ewart. We are inspired by Mr Ewart’s spirit of entrepreneurship, vision, strong business ethics, and deep patriotism. We extend condolences to the members of his family, and to the Boards, management and staff of the Alkali Group of Companies.
One word to describe Alexander Barclay Ewart

PROVEN

Thanks for your support Barclay.