

Sketch of a West Pointer: Lloyd Shippam

Lloyd began playing golf with his friends around 1960 and joined West Point in 1991, when Dave Fairweather was the president. He once played to a handicap of 13 and remembers fondly the 7th hole at McCleery, where he achieved a hole-in-one a few years ago. Although it was not a Club day (too bad), he enjoyed buying a round for his partners in celebration of his feat.

Lloyd was born in Davidson, Saskatchewan and spent some time in Eyebrow, SK where his father had a blacksmith shop; it was later moved in its entirety to Moose Jaw as part of a museum. In 1935, the Shippam family moved to Vancouver where Lloyd attended Lord Nelson, Secord and Norquay elementary schools before attending John Oliver High School, where he met Hugh Marshall. The family moved while Lloyd was at Secord; he recalls roller skating to school on steel-wheeled skates (not the in-line skates of today!) from Rupert and Vanness and then returning home on the Central Park inter urban tram – as it was all uphill on the return trip.

Among his occupations, Lloyd lists machinist, engine fitter and being the Chief Engineer on the Vancouver Fire Boat. His buddy owned a machine shop and Lloyd worked for him; Lloyd learned to weld in another shop owned by his father. Lloyd was employed by the Canadian Fishing Company, where he worked on 85-foot packers and remembers bringing a fish home once a week. The packers travelled around Vancouver Island, picking up fish on a weekly basis and it always took a while to get his land legs back. Lloyd remembers fishing for herring one winter so that he could pay off half his mortgage! If he needed a new stove or spending money, he would find part-time work on a yacht.

Lloyd apprenticed at Sterling Shipyards and got his Marine Engineering papers, before applying to the Vancouver Fire Department. He spent two years in the fire hall and then 31 years on the fireboats. The fireboat operating in False Creek was the J.H. Carlisle, built in 1928 (the year of Lloyd's birth); the one in Coal Harbour was simply called Vancouver Fireboat #2. Lloyd and his crew of five shift engineers did all the maintenance work on the fireboats, installed a top-rated steering system, and did all the welding and electrical work. In 1961, one of Vancouver's largest fires burned at BC Forest Products. During that False Creek fire, the fireboat crews pumped water for 9 hours, wearing no ear protection. He couldn't hear for 3 days; the lack of safety concerns in those days probably contributed to significant hearing loss for many employees. One of the benefits of shift work was that it provided Lloyd time to play golf. Lloyd was close to retirement age, when on January 1, 1988, the City of Vancouver (in its infinite wisdom) sold the fireboat – so he retired as the Chief Engineer. [It was sold to a local entrepreneur for \$150,000; the replacement value at the time was approximately \$6 million. That man kept the fireboat for a couple of years and then sold it to the City of San Francisco for \$300,000.]

Lloyd met his wife, Isabel, while both were singing in the choir at Collingwood Church; they were married on October 21, 1949 (65th anniversary coming up). The family consists of son (Terry), three daughters (Lorie, Leah, Lynn) and seven grandchildren, who all reside in the Lower Mainland.

His favourite vacations include skiing in the Rockies, golfing in the Okanagan and spending time at a Dude Ranch with his family. Lloyd and Isabel enjoy cruising and their trips to Scotland and England to visit relatives, as well as holidays in Spain, Portugal, Hawaii and the Caribbean.

Lloyd was an accomplished skier and took annual trips with a group to Sunshine Ski Village, near Banff. He got his start while in high school, skiing on Hollyburn Mountain, using old hickory skis with no edges! From there, he graduated to the slopes on Cypress, Kelowna, Vernon, Manning Park, Whistler and Blackcomb and relishes the fact that he has skied with all his grandchildren.

Lloyd's favourite golfers are fellow lefty, Phil Mickelson, and Jack Nicklaus, both classy gentlemen. Fraserview Golf Course has the best layout, in Lloyd's opinion, and he also enjoys Fairview Mountain and Cherry Grove in Oliver.

In addition to his love for golf, Lloyd is an avid curler and has served two different clubs as Secretary Treasurer for many years. He organized numerous bonspiels and banquets and served as the Draw Master at Marpole Curling Club, where he still curls.