

Sketch of a West Pointer – Ed Jackson



Ed Jackson is a rarity, a true Vancouverite! The house he lived in when he was born on March 25, 1944 is still standing on the corner of West 2nd Avenue and Larch Street. In fact, his grandfather built the extension on the back of that house. Ed remembers that growing up was a tough time for his family but says his mother was a real trooper. Today, Ed lives a half block down the lane from his “birth” house. He has lived in Vancouver most of his life with the exceptions of a two-year stay in Saskatoon when he was in elementary school and then two years in Edmonton when he worked for Pacific Western Airlines.

Ed attended Kitsilano High School for all six years and has since returned to the new building to view his class picture hanging on the third floor wall. Ed has always been an athlete. He played baseball, basketball, football and golf in high school. A proud accomplishment was

playing senior football for the years 1960, '61 and '62, as both an offensive and defensive end. *[Ed. Note: Both tough positions.]* The renowned George Puil (former teacher, coach, rugby player and member of Vancouver City Council) was their coach for those three years, and the team won the city championship each year.

Ed's first job was with the former Pacific Western Airlines, later part of Canadian Pacific Airlines. He served as Customer Service Agent for ten years and as a Loadmaster on the C130 Hercules for two years. That job ended when he took a blow to his knee by an exploding tie-down chain. He moved on to his career occupation with the Hudson's Bay Company, working as the Manager of Accounting for British Columbia and Alberta.

Golf arrived in his life around 1959 when he and his buddies would spend the summer nights on Connaught Park (adjacent to Kits High). Each had a small bag with seven clubs. An hour before sunrise they would walk to the UBC golf course and tee off before the pro shop opened. Ed and his friends knew that the head pro was aware they were there because he could see the tell-tale footprints appearing in the dew on the grass. Even though the boys walked past the pro shop after 9 holes, the pro never stopped them or asked them to pay. Ed and his friends are indebted to that man as the boys really didn't have enough money for golf.

Ed relates that his lowest handicap was 9 but cautions that that was before he learned how important telling the truth was! More realistically, it was probably closer to 12 in the 1960s. He played for about 15 years and then put the game on the shelf for 30 years while building a career. His current handicap is 16 and he's happy to be able to play bogey-golf. He says that one thing he has learned is that when you get older, your age goes up faster than your handicap.

More than 30 years ago Ed met and married Marje Burdine. He was very surprised when, about 10 years ago, she said, out of the blue, “Why don’t we take up golf?” It was Marje’s idea, but nonetheless, Ed was ecstatic. Today, Marje has a good game and Ed is thrilled to have her as a regular partner on the links.

His hole-in-one total should be 2 ½. The ½ is when the players in front of his group neglected to put the flag pole back in the hole properly. His tee shot at the Pelican Rapids Golf and Country Club in Fort Smith, Northwest Territories, rolled up to the hole gently and bounced back. If the flag pole had been replaced properly, his ball would have dropped. His learning point: always replace the flag pole properly. The second hole-in-one was just a plain and simple nice shot. Sort of. It was a windy day at University Golf Course, blowing left to right. Ed hit a beautiful shot about 9 feet to the left of the hole. Once the ball landed, the wind blew it almost at a right angle – and into the hole. He classifies his third ace as being very artistic and it occurred in Fort Smith. There was a high rocky hill to the left of the green (which was really a misnomer, because it was grey sand) and Ed struck a 3-wood high up the hill on the left and watched the ball ricochet about 6 times before it got to the bottom and rolled into the hole.

Ed has never watched a lot of golf on TV but he remembers a little guy, way back about 50 years ago, who would swing his driver so hard, that both feet would come off the ground. He challenges us to identify this golfer. Ed’s favourite golf courses are McCleery, Langara and Sun City Shadow Hills in Indio. He likes that they are all well-maintained and in beautiful locations.

As far as vacations go, Ed figures that with all the time he spent travelling the world on the Hercules visiting various locations, he’s happy now to spend summers in Vancouver and winters in Indio. In addition to golf, his hobbies include gardening and playing tennis at Jericho.

In 2018 he was looking for a golf club to join, learned that West Point and UBC had at one time been one and the same, and liked the idea of moving between our three well-groomed municipal courses. He continues to enjoy playing with a bunch of great guys in our Club and finds the atmosphere friendly and sociable. We’re happy that Ed selected WPGC.