

WEBSTER, Harry Lloyd (Lloyd) [UNTD YORK '44] (1925 - 2012) Age: 87



Webster: Harry Lloyd

Known to family and friends as Lloyd, passed away peacefully on Sunday, July 15, 2012 at the age of 87 at The Villages of Humber Heights. Loving husband of Gloria for 64 years. Loving father of Clarke and Mary-Margaret, Craig (predeceased in 1972), Brian, Starr and Grant and Robin and Peter. Fondly remembered as Papa to 12 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren. Lloyd enjoyed a distinguished career working at Bell, Bell-Northern Research and Northern Telecom. After retiring in 1986, he and Gloria spent many happy winters as snowbirds in Siesta Key, Florida where he pursued his childhood passion of painting and perfected his golf game. Children and grandchildren were frequent visitors. In more recent years, Lloyd and Gloria sailed the world aboard the Queen Mary and Queen Victoria, making new friends along the way and often hosting children and grandchildren for some legs of the voyage.

Perhaps Lloyd was best known for his playful sense of humour. His many puns and plays on words delighted and entertained his family, friends and colleagues throughout his life and right up until his last days. Another notable attribute was his genial nature and overall contentment with life no matter what the day might bring. Lloyd was a man well loved and his was truly a life well lived.

A private family service and interment was held July 19.

Lloyd was a generous contributor to many charities and would be honoured to know that others followed his example by donating to a charity of their choice.

He was attested into the UNTD at U of T in October, 1944 and spent at least the summer of 1945 on summer training. He graduated in Engineering in 1947 and had a lengthy career with a series of Bell companies.

There is a sidebar to Lloyd's life story that cannot go unmentioned as it no doubt profoundly affected him. It relates to his father Harry William Webster, who was a Master Mariner on the Great Lakes, "commanding" the passenger steamers, SS Toronto, Kingston and Cayuga.

In anyone's short-list of Toronto disasters, would be included the sacking of York by the Americans in 1813, Hurricane Hazel in 1954, the recent Ford administration and most certainly the burning and sinking of the SS Noronic, jettyside at Pier 9 on Sept 17, 1949, with the loss of at least 119 lives. Harry Webster was on his SS Cayuga at the time at an adjacent pier and took off passengers and crew, including the skipper. In November it was Harry Webster's job to tow the raised and partially dismantled Noronic, to Hamilton for scrapping.

Harry Webster died a year later at the age of 57. An article written about him at the time, is addended below.

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WEBSTER, Harry William (Capt.)—

Suddenly, at Toronto General hospital, Wednesday evening. Nov. 8, 1950, Harry William Webster, in his 58th year (captain, S.S. Cayuga and S.S. Kingston), beloved husband of Harriet Lloyd, 50 Glen Stewart Ave., Toronto, dear father of Doris (Mrs. J. Wilson) and H. Lloyd Webster of Toronto. Resting at the Wm. Sherrin funeral home, 873 Kingston Rd., Toronto. Service in the chapel on Saturday, at 1.30 p.m. Interment Pine Hills cemetery.

Capt. Harry W. Webster.

Cayuga Skipper on Great Lakes for 40 years

Suffering a coronary thrombosis, Capt. Harry William Webster, 57, who had sailed the Great Lakes as master of several passenger vessels, died a few hours after being admitted to Toronto General Hospital Wednesday night.

A sailor for nearly 40 years, his last command was the SS Cayuga, which made her final trip of the season Sept. 10. It was Capt. Webster's third term of service as master of the SS Cayuga, of the Canada Steamship Lines, and the only passenger ship operating the past summer on Lake Ontario.

He had also served as captain of the old SS Toronto and the SS Kingston, both of which had been scrapped. It was his task to tow the SS Noronic to its "graveyard" at the Hamilton steelyards after it burned at a Toronto dock in September, 1949, with a loss of 119 lives.

Capt. Webster was born at Lunenburg N.S., and as a child moved to Boston, Mass. He joined Canada Steamship Lines in his youth and received his master's papers in 1934. He interrupted his apprenticeship in sailing during the First World War to serve overseas with the Canadian Army.

Captain Webster received special commendation while master of the SS Toronto in 1937, when on his own initiative he sailed his steamer five miles off course to stand by a New York yacht in difficulty in the Thousand Islands area. Capt. Webster stood by for five hours, prepared to launch rescue boats if necessary, until the arrival of a U.S. Coast Guard cutter.

He was a member of the Canadian Masters and Engineers' Federation and St. Aidan's Anglican Church. He leaves his wife, Harriet Lloyd Webster; one son, Lloyd, and a daughter, Mrs. Doris Wilson, both of Toronto, and three grandchildren.

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Bill C