

## Champlain Valley Chapter – Region I – 2008-2009 Gold Ribbon Submission



### **History of Loran V. Appleby, Life Member ASHRAE**

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This article is a compilation of information gathered from a March 27, 2009 phone interview with Loran Appleby and other chapter and regional documents, some of which were provided by Loran. Loran V. Appleby is one of the founding members of the Champlain Valley Chapter (CVC) and while Loran never served as President of the CVC, he contributed significantly to its success and vitality throughout the years of his membership.

Loran grew up near Burnt Hills, NY and met his future wife Esther on a blind date during a hay ride at age 16. Burnt Hills is a neighboring town to Schenectady, NY where Esther grew up. Loran graduated from Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake High School in 1944, just prior to the end of WWII. At the time the draft was still in effect and Loran enlisted into the Navy and was stationed in Gulfport, Miss. for Radar Technician School. During his time in Gulfport his parents and then girlfriend, Esther went to visit him and during this visit Loran proposed to Esther. The war ended in 1945 and the Navy offered Loran the opportunity to stay enlisted but since he was already accepted at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) he left the Navy on July 3, 1946 to start college.

Upon returning to upstate New York, Loran attended RPI while still living at home. Ester was also living with her parents and working at G.E. Company in Schenectady, NY. After a year of the stress of living at home, going to classes, studying, working and trying to find time to see each other, Loran and Esther decided it would be better to get married, at least they would see each other more. They were married in 1947 and moved into an apartment for \$22/month rent.

Loran graduated from RPI in 1950 with a Bachelor's in Mechanical Engineering. After graduation he joined Johnson Service Co., a controls company, as a sales engineer with a salary of \$4,800/yr. Loran's manager at the time, Chick Cross, was great at sales but didn't care for "detail work". This provided Loran the opportunity to coordinate all of the office work, submittals, take-offs, equipment orders and construction crew management. It was during this first year of employment that Loran became a member of ASHVE (1952). ASHVE, American Society of Heating and Ventilating Engineers was a predecessor of ASHRAE. The Empire State Capital Chapter was just getting started and Chick encouraged Loran to volunteer. Loran was elected Secretary/Treasurer in 1953; followed by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President in 1954 and President in 1955. After a few months of getting his feet wet Loran was sent off to controls training in Milwaukee for 6 weeks. While 6 weeks away from home for training might not be too bad under normal circumstances, Esther had just given birth to their twin sons! Their boys Arthur and Charlie had been born on May 24, 1951 and spent their first 4 weeks in an incubator before getting to go home. Loran and Esther were blessed to have many family and coworkers pitch in to help Esther during Loran's absence. After a few years Loran decided it was time to look for a new job.

It was then that Loran joined J.L. Ottenheimer Associates, the oldest consulting engineering firm in New York's Capital District, as an HVAC/R engineer. After just 3 years Loran wasn't caring for how things were going so he decided to leave to find his next position. He started work for R.D. Marshall Company in 1955. This was a refrigeration wholesale company providing both design and sales services. They were just starting up a manufacturer's agency division and Loran headed up this division representing air distribution products. Then in 1959 Doug Marshall, the owner, decided that the refrigeration side of the business was more profitable and he wanted to shut down the manufacturer's rep. side of the business. He offered to give that portion of the business to Loran if he was interested. It was this offer that allowed Loran the opportunity to launch his own business L.V. Appleby, Inc. marketing and distributing HVAC&R equipment.

Over the years Loran would open other branches of L.V. Appleby, Inc. in Syracuse, NY and in Burlington, VT under the name of Air Equipment Sales. He was considering opening another location in Maine when the manager of the Burlington office passed away. After going through a few other managers that just never worked out he decided to close the Burlington office due to lack of adequate staffing.

In 1973 Loran was invited to join Jim Brown of Jennison Engineering and Dick Bowler as an owner & contributor to Balance Incorporated. Loran maintained L.V. Appleby, Inc. until the late 1990's when he retired selling the company to a colleague. In thinking back on his career, one project that stands out in Loran's mind is an elderly housing swimming pool project in Tupper Lake. The reason it

stands out is that during start up he witnessed a lift system for raising and lowering people in the pool.

Throughout his career Loran stayed very active in ASHRAE, not only at the chapter level but also at the Regional and Society level. In the Empire State Capital Chapter of ASHAE (American Society of Heating and Air-Conditioning Engineers) he had moved rapidly through the leadership ranks. ASHAE was also another predecessor of ASHRAE. He continued to serve on the Board of Governors after serving as Chapter President in 1955-56. From 1958-1974 he served in many Chapter Committee Chair rolls including Membership, Program, Research Promotion and Nominating.

Through his extensive service on the chapter Membership committee Loran became fairly well known and was invited to serve on the Society Membership committee, which he did from 1961-65. In 1981 the Region I Chapters Regional Conference was held in Lake Placid, NY and was co-hosted by the Syracuse and Northeast Chapters. For this event Loran was the host chair for the Northeast Chapter. He continued to serve on numerous other society committees from 1961 through 1991 including Educations, Nominating, Admission & Advancement, Long Range Planning, International Institute of Refrigeration Presidential Committee and Meetings & Arrangements. He also served on Honors & Awards, Handbook, Chair of Membership, Education and was the Consultant to Admissions & Advancement after Society relocated to Atlanta for training of new committee members. Additionally he served as Director at Large (DAL) from 1977-1980 and was and ex officio for several ASHRAE committees. Loran also received the ASHRAE Distinguished Service Award in 1972 and was the first recipient of the Region Award of Merit in 1978.

In addition to the Northeast Chapter Loran was also very active in the Champlain Valley Chapter. He assisted with the organization and charter of the CVC in 1970 with the help of Bill Lotz, Dick Bowler, Jim Brown, Bob Miller and Steve Singleton, NYC Chapter Membership Secretary. Loran served as Chapter Historian in 1995, assembling the original edition of the "Chronicle", with Esther's help. The "Chronicle" is the CVC's historical record of yearly activity and Presidents. This document is updated yearly in an effort to continue the work that Loran and Esther started. Also in 1995 as Historian he organized the CVC's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary party with the help of Clem Turmel, Steve Poole, Gus Mastro and Terry Reynolds. They recruited local contractors to help sponsor portions of the event and organized an automated slide show of chapter photos. He used the party as an opportunity to get photos of all of the Past Presidents and collect biographical information which was later used to assemble the "Chronicle".

Even though Loran was busy as a business owner and active in ASHRAE he still always made time for family. Loran and Esther enjoyed RV'ing, often tying their summer trips to the ASHRAE Annual meeting location. They took 6 weeks off every summer to vacation as a family. The family traveled to every state in the

U.S. except Alaska and also traveled extensively in Canada. Sadly, Esther passed away in 01/02/08 at age 80 after a battle with Alzheimer's disease. She would have been 81 on 01/23/08. Their boys are both married with families of their own. Arthur lives in New York and has a small contracting business; he and his wife have 2 children. Charlie lives in Georgia near his father and is a chemist for the EPA; he and his wife have 3 children. Charlie's son Michael has a son Jack making Loran a Great-Grandfather.

Some of Loran's hobbies, now that he doesn't travel extensively, include cooking, emailing and Silver Sneakers, an exercise group for seniors. He was also active in the Ancient Temple Lodge #14 including Master of the Lodge and was a host family for American Field Service.

Loran's advice to those getting ready for college or just starting out in their careers is the following:

- a. Go to college near family – it's important to have the support network
- b. Continue your education through trainings, classes & organizations
- c. Join an organization in your field and get active in events in your field – volunteer
- d. Read a lot
- e. VOTE!

Loran recently turned 82 years old in April of this year and currently resides in Athens, GA.