

George Hayden



I have decided to create a piece about a club member who is close to becoming a Centurion, George Hayden. George is a frequent participant at the Monday and Thursday Morning Drop Ins. So many of us have had the opportunity to play and enjoy George Hayden.

I recently had the opportunity to share a beer and have some enjoyable conversation with George on a sunny December Friday afternoon at his home. This conversation provided some background about George that I would like to share with all of you.

George has had the good fortune to turn 98 recently. This is an age that many of us will strive to achieve but fail to attain. He was born on a farm located south of Williston, ND on September 12th, 1925. George spent his grade school years and three years of High school in the Williston school system. Before his senior year, George joined the Navy in 1943.

George attended several Navy schools over the next 2 years to prepare him to be a submariner. The position he trained for was a torpedo man. After this training, he was assigned to the submarine USS Ling in 1945. By that time, the war was winding down. Fortunately, or unfortunately, depending how you look at it, his ship didn't get the opportunity to engage in any combat action. Because of that, George was discharged early from the Navy in 1946.

Utilizing the GI Bill, George took courses at Minot State Teachers College and obtained his High School Equivalency diploma in late 1946. At that time, utilizing his mechanical aptitude, he got a job at the local Williston Chevrolet car dealership and remained there for the next seven years. During that time, George married his high school sweet heart, Betty, in January, 1947.

In the late 1950's, George and Betty moved to Watford City, ND. There he and a partner started a body shop business. Over the years, the business thrived. He remained at that body shop until he retired in 1981. George and his wife traveled and stayed in Watford City until the late 90's. At that time, they purchased a home in The Grand. They then become snowbirds traveling between Watford City and Surprise. Sadly, Betty passed 12 years ago and George has been a bachelor ever since. George is still a snowbird and travels back his Watford City home every summer.

Besides liking to play pool, George likes to restore old cars. Over the years, George has restored approximately 20 cars. For his restoring efforts, George has won at various car shows 3 trophies for a 1925 Model A Ford and 1 trophy for a 1930 Model T Ford.

George is a special person and an inspiration to all of us in the Billiards Club.