

Reel Biog. Bk.

February 11, 1981 MT

SHIPP, Gordon Stanley

Gordon Shipp 89, dies

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Gordon Stanley Shipp, founder and Chairman of the Board of Shipp Corporation Ltd., died Monday morning at Mississauga General Hospital. He was 89 years old.

Mr. Shipp took an active role in the family-owned building firm he established in 1923. The tall, distinguished builder died "in a way he would have liked," said Lloyd C. Gunby, a personal friend and vice-president of marketing at Shipp Corp. Mr. Shipp had just returned from a trip to the national conference of the Housing and Urban Development Association of Canada (HUDAC), and presented the association's fourth Gordon S. Shipp award for outstanding service to the building industry.

Shipp Corporation is responsible for the construction of Applewood Acres — a 845-home community, including Applewood Village Plaza, which was built between 1951 and 1956 and hailed as one of Canada's largest private developments. Mississauga witnessed the erection of five high-rise apartment complexes along Bloor Street during the late 1960s, including Applewood Landmark where Mr. Shipp resided with his third wife Helen.

Any discussion of the firm's success would always include the early years of partnership between the late Mr. Shipp and his son, Harold, 55. In 1945, Harold left high school to help his father build homes in Etobicoke.

Mr. Shipp relinquished his role as company president in 1966, giving the reins to Harold and remaining active as the Chairman of the Board. The company name remained G.S. Shipp & Son until 1969.

The Shipp's shared the unique distinction of being the only father and son to serve as presidents of the Toronto Home Builders Association and HUDAC. The family's numbers were further strengthened to Mr. Shipp's delight, as grandson Gordon, 22, joined the company to learn the building trade at the Shipp Centre site in Etobicoke. A sculpture of the senior Shipp has been commissioned for the new complex's lobby, to be completed this May.

Funeral services will be held today at 1 p.m. at Islington United Church, 25 Burnhamthorpe Rd.