

Lloyd Colvin, W6KG, SK

Lloyd Dayton Colvin, W6KG, who with his wife Iris, W6QL, visited and operated from hundreds of DX locations all over the world, is a Silent Key. He was 78.

After initially rallying, Lloyd succumbed to the effects of a stroke suffered in early December during a visit to Istanbul, Turkey with his wife. His death there was attributed to cardiac arrest.

First licensed in 1929 at age 12, Lloyd earned an electrical engineering degree from U.C. Berkeley. After graduation, he embarked upon a 23-year army career, retiring in 1961 as a lieutenant colonel. His service years had provided the opportunity to operate from many foreign countries, establishing the penchant for DX globetrotting that marked his later years. Issued WPX #1, he was featured on the cover of *CQ* in 1957.

Lloyd and Iris married in 1938, and Iris obtained her license in 1945, as W6DOD. By the mid-sixties, their



W6KG and W6QL at home in Richmond, CA, July 4, 1993

successful real estate investments and contracting business in Alaska and California had ensured financial independence for the Colvins. DX history was about to be made.

The Yasme Foundation had been established in 1961 to aid the worldwide sailboat DXpeditioning of Danny Weil, VP2VB, a young Englishman. By 1964, Weil had married, lost the last of five boats and abandoned his odyssey. The foundation had also sponsored several other DXpeditioners. Although it now had no funds, Yasme could provide licensing and QSL assistance to DXers who could pay their own way—as the Colvins could. Thus Yasme and the Colvins began a 30-year association.

The Colvins' Yasme saga began in the fall of 1965 on Saipan; the last completed trip—to Southeast Asia—was in 1992. They traveled to 221

continued on page 3

DXer

N O R T H E R N
C A L I F O R N I A
D X C L U B



January Meeting to Feature "MediShare" Story

A leisurely Sunday morning roundtable between hams in three continents gave birth to "MediShare", a world-wide philanthropic program originated and operated solely by amateur radio operators. MediShare provides medical equipment, medicines and medical supplies to Third World hospitals and jungle clinics.

At the January dinner meeting of the Northern California DX Club, Dr. Robert C. ("Smitty") Smithwick, W6JZU, will tell the story of MediShare for the first time, with narrative, slides and pictures.

That's Friday, January 14, 1994, at *The Bold Knight Restaurant* in Sunnyvale. Attitude adjustment commences at six and

Inside

Minutes/Roster Changes	2
By George! de WA6O	2
Remembering Lloyd	
—WA6AUD, N6T	3
Point & Counterpoint	4
Speaking of QSL's...	4
One Member's Opinion	
—WA6AUD	5
A Letter from 3B8CF	7
Coming Events	7
Christmas Party Pix	8
The Editor's Keyboard	8
Credits	8

dinner at seven, followed by the presentation and meeting. Prime Rib or Chicken Riganati (\$16); Chef's Salad (\$12). Contact Craig Smith, N6ITW for dinner reservations via packet or leave a message at (408) 777-0700.

W6KG, SK

continued from page 1

DXCC countries, operating in about two thirds of them, and generated over one million QSO's. Yasme volunteers answered over 750,000 QSL's, which are cata-logged and stored in the Colvin home—the world's largest QSL collection.

Lloyd and Iris frequently operated from countries—such as Abu Ail in 1982 and Burundi in 1991—which had seen no amateur operation for many

years. In 1989, *glasnost* brought the opportunity to tour all 15 Soviet republics, and to operate in all but Armenia.

Both Colvins were Life Members of the Northern California DX Club, and honorary members of many other DX organizations. On average, they were abroad for six months each year, and were rarely home for Christmas. When at home, they

frequently entertained traveling DXers they had met on their sojourns; their annual Fourth of July party was well-attended by local and visiting DXers.

In addition to Iris, Lloyd is survived by a daughter, Joy Gilcrease, formerly W4ZEW, and granddaughters Justine and Vanessa Gilcrease. His ashes have been scattered at sea.

Remembering Lloyd

As far as I am concerned, Lloyd and Iris Colvin were the most spectacular and most enduring team of DXers ever to show on the bands. They were the friends of every journeyman DXer and the passing of Lloyd will leave a void that possibly never can be filled. They were a DXing phenomenon which lasted so long that it often was taken for granted, something that would always naturally occur. It wasn't and it won't. Of all the qualities that should be remembered and admired, it was their always-openness with any DXer, and the total countries worked was not their criterion. If you were a DXer, you were a friend and the Colvins had friends. Always.

Members of the club may have their favorite story about the Colvins, some of which have been heard before, and some of which bear repeating. One which I have often retold is how Lloyd fell off the roof of their three-story home over by the edge of the bay in Richmond. This happened about twenty years ago. Years back, the Colvins had a home up atop the Berkeley Hills on Grizzly Boulevard. They sold that home and traveled the world DXing for some years. Returning to the Bay Area, they purchased property adjacent to present Interstate 580 and built a three story home. Most club members are familiar with the site: the poles for their low band antennas are often noted.

One morning upon arising, and when Iris was fixing breakfast, Lloyd said he

was going up to the flat rooftop of the structure to check the antennas. Up there he carefully studied the various arrays, edging backwards to get better angles for viewing or to check certain things. He kept moving back until his heel struck the low parapet around the rooftop, and Lloyd toppled over the side of the building. He hit the ground three stories down, fortunately hitting softened ground.

After a moment or two, maybe even three, of running through the peripheral check-list, Lloyd got to his feet and climbed back up the stairs to the kitchen on the upper floor. There Iris—still busily engaged—was astonished to see Lloyd come up the stairway. "Lloyd! I thought you were up on the roof," Iris said in surprise. "I was," was Lloyd's reply, "I was."

Some may have some reservations about this story. Some years ago, when writing for *CQ*, I wanted to use this item in a DX column and checked with Lloyd and Iris before sending off the copy. They confirmed that this is the way it happened. Absolutely!

It is a sad task to tell such things and to realize that they must be put in the past tense. But there are other factors. One eventually learns that one lives as long as one is remembered, and is dead when forgotten. For DXers, Lloyd Colvin will live a long time. A very long time.

Hugh Cassidy, WA6AUD



In their 30 years of DX travel, Lloyd and Iris Colvin had countless adventures, some of which have become folkloric. For the benefit of younger members, here are a few, as told by Rubin, WA6AHF.

His friends say Lloyd was loathe to spend money on fancy accommodations, and scrupulously avoided hotels. Once, in a nameless South American country, Lloyd and Iris arranged to stay a week at a "private boarding house" with very reasonable rates, where setting up the ham rig would present no problems.

Their first night proved sleepless, with a constant clamor, loud male voices, and a lot of coming and going. The next morning, they found that no men were present—all the other residents of the building were women. They quickly arrived at the correct assessment: they had moved into a brothel. Undaunted, they stayed the rest of the week!

On another occasion, in another third-world QTH, Lloyd and Iris were in the street. Suddenly, a man tore Iris' watch from her wrist and took off running. Lloyd took off in hot pursuit of the retreating figure, yelling for assistance as he chased the man into ever narrowing streets and alleys. Of course, noone spoke English, and few would have been inclined to help, in any case. Undaunted, Lloyd cornered his man in an apartment house, shook him violently, took his watch, and returned, breathless, to present the regained prize to Iris. Iris looked at the recovered valuable and said "Lloyd, that isn't my watch!"

Garry Shapiro, NI6T