

Obituary: P. Lambooy

Petrus (Peter) Lambooy was born in Johannesburg of Dutch-speaking parents on 13th November, 1911, and died in August 1988. These are the bare statistics, which obviously tell nothing of the years between and the man who lived them to the full.



Peter Lambooy was an active and positive contributor to every activity in which he became involved. Humanitarian but tough and competitive, he lived up to his philosophy of 'give it all you've got' and 'play the ball as it lies', and was an example to friends, colleagues, and acquaintances.

Those who played golf with him will testify to his supreme competitiveness—he was never beaten until at the last putt the ball was settling in the cup. It has often been said that a man's attitude on the golf course is a good indication of his attitude towards life—this certainly applied in Peter's case. Born and growing up in a family

of modest means before the era of modern conveniences, Peter worked hard for both his fun and his living.

Bitten by the hunting bug at the age of 12 on a safari to the north-eastern Transvaal with his father, he and a friend pursued this passion by cycling to Lydenburg (3 days of pedalling) to shoot game. His skill as a marksman brought him into competitive shooting—he won the South African Schools Bisley Championship, and later won the South African Section of the Empire and Commonwealth Bisley. Later he participated in a number of big-game safaris.

After 14 years on gold-mine production, during the course of which he obtained a Mine Manager's Certificate of Competency, he joined African Explosives & Chemical Industries as an Explosives Service Engineer. It was here that his natural talent for marketing manifested itself, and he was promoted in fairly rapid succession to Technical Manager, then Sales and Service Manager, and finally Marketing Manager of the Explosives Division. In the course of his duties, he travelled extensively both on the African continent and internationally, and became known and respected throughout the international explosives industry. In South Africa, he virtually became 'Mr Explosives', and it was common to hear mining men say, 'I'll talk to Peter Lambooy, he'll be able to put us right'.

It was his marketing acumen that gave rise to the manufacture and introduction of igniter cords in the South African industry, as well as the local manufacture of safety fuses among others. His broad involvement in the explosives and mining industries culminated in what was probably the highlight of his career: his election to the presidency of The South African Institute of Mining and Metallurgy for the years 1967/1968—an office that he filled with conscientiousness and competence.

On the non-working side of his life, Peter was an active member of the Management Committee of St. Columba's Presbyterian Church. He was also a long-standing member of Modderfontein Golf Club and, after his retirement, he joined the Senior Golfers and, needless to say, was elected Captain and then President of the Senior Golfers for the years 1982/1983.

Peter Lambooy was, indeed, a man who lived and participated in life to the full. We miss him sorely but are grateful to have known a person such as he.