

30 Years with Ron Chazin

This year we recognize Ron Chazin for 30 years of service and dedication with Shapiro & Duncan, Inc. Ron started working for the company as a young kid, and believe it or not at one time during his career Sheldon Shapiro was his little helper on the job site. Ron has climbed the ladder over the years and assumed roles of plumber, HVAC Foreman, Superintendent, Project Manager and most recently Project Executive. He holds three bachelors degrees from the University of Maryland in finance, marketing and general business. Besides graduating from college, Ron was an apprentice in plumbing school and holds a large number of certifications and awards over his 30 years with Shapiro & Duncan, Inc.



Check out Ron's most challenging project, what it was like to watch the company grow, who played a major influence throughout his career, where he plans to take his trip and much more in this Q and A session.

Q. How did you hear about S&D?

I wasn't interviewed, I was enlisted. I needed summer work while I was in school. My brother knew this guy who's dad needed some young, dumb, cheap muscle for day work. I decided to work for the summer and really liked it. I returned that winter break, worked the next summer, and then came on full time. At the time, S&D only had five full time field employees.

Q. Why did you choose to stay with S&D throughout your entire career as opposed to working with another company?

Originality and their family inspired environment.

Q. What was the most memorable project you worked on?

Montgomery Blair High School. We had a great group of young people on our team. Our foreman on the project was Chuck Foulke, while Chuck Sperry and Glen Smith were the leadmen. The project was completed in approximately 18 months and on schedule for the fall 2000 year. The project holds a special place for me because I am an alumni of the original Montgomery Blair High School.

Q. What was the most challenging project you worked on?

NRUCFC in Sterling, Virginia. Our team members included Marty Fisher, Foreman, John Carter, Leadman, and Chris Ott, HVAC Technician. One of the many challenges we faced on this project was the diversity of mechanical equipment used and the intricate control sequences that needed to be coordinated from both a fabrication and manufacturing standpoint. Without the detailed help of our Planning/Fabrication department using trade coordination and the constant forward focus of our field forces to plan and schedule fabricated pipe assemblies and supporting accessories, the installation of the varied systems could not have been completed.

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Q. Is there a type of project that you always wanted to work on, but never became an opportunity for you?

I've been able to work on a great variety of projects while I worked in the field and in the office throughout my career. I've been a part of teams that built and renovated row houses, apartment houses, condos and condo conversions, hotels, schools, hospitals, office buildings, conference centers, shopping centers, water treatment plants, and sewage treatment plants. I've always thought participating on either a data center or a museum project would be very interesting.

Q. How many awards have you won over the years?

I haven't kept count. There have been many, and I have always been thankful for the team in the field.

Q. Who served as your mentor and what did you learn from them?

It hasn't been just one person. At S&D, they give you access to a continuous wealth of knowledge allowing me to learn and grow through the years. However Dave Shapiro does stand out as a huge influence. From the beginning, Dave Shapiro would call me on the phone every evening and talk to me for hours about the work that was performed that day and emphasize on the importance of knowing not just the assembly of the parts, but also the reasoning for the means and methods. He would explain the underlying code, and the engineering behind the installed systems. Paramount to all we discussed was planning the work! Even with all of the book knowledge that "Big Daddy" (Dave Shapiro) passed on to me, I need to give credit for almost all of my hands on experience to Dave Daniels. Dave Daniels was an old school hard working plumber of the highest grade. Even though it was difficult to understand a word he said for the first three to four months I worked with him, he knew his plumbing. All of my field HVAC knowledge came from working with Bob "Plumb Bob" Dodson and Jon Clark. Both men knew how to install and get a system to operate. I learned the "get out of my way, I have to work" attitude from Pat Shanko. I can't imagine having a better co-worker. Each person I had the pleasure of working with at S&D has left me with a little more knowledge, and I still continue to learn from my co-workers every day.

Q. What was it like to watch the company grow to what it is today?

Very exciting. We always had the attitude to work and do better on the next project. Our growth has provided us with powerful tools (BIM for planning, coordination and field layout) and allowed us to better our staff both in the field, and in the office.

Q. What should you do to make the most out of your career at S&D?

Read everything you can about the work. Don't limit yourself to code and classroom books, but expand by reading about the equipment and the rough material submittals for the items on your project. Read the entire specification book for your project, not just the plumbing and HVAC sections. Learning to read plans and all of the drawings like architectural, civil, structural and electrical. It will help you understand how all of the components fit together.

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Q. How do you feel about the technology changes within our industry? Was it an easy transition?

Email has been great for the distribution of submittals, RFI's, drawings, punch list spreadsheets, meeting invitations, minutes, etc. but it can get pretty out of control at times. Technology is being used less for the distribution of information, and more as a paper trail to bully subcontractors and skew the realities of the job site. It can be viewed as a method for instantaneous dispersal of data and response. Not true! The distribution of data to multiple parties still takes time. Just because an email enters an inbox quickly, does not mean it will be viewed or acted upon in minutes. When you are working in the office and out on the field and receiving 50 to 100 emails per day, it can be a difficult to respond quickly.

Q. Where do you see your life in the next 5 years? 10 years?

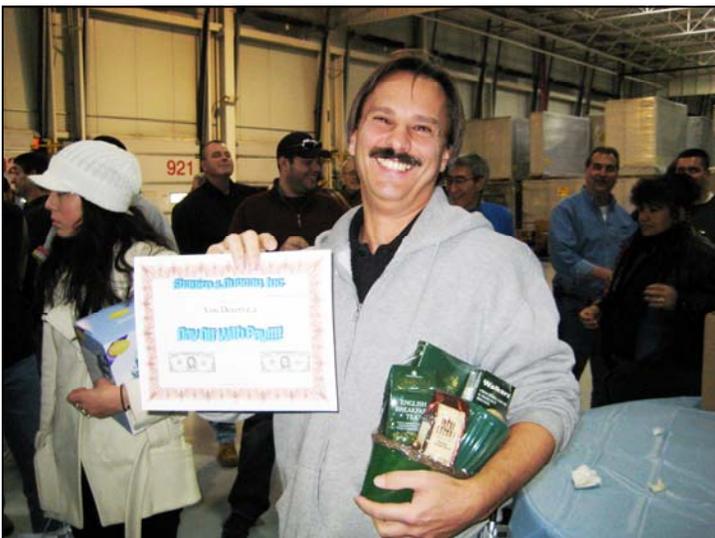
5 Years- Still working with S&D

10 Years- Renting sand chairs at the beach!

Q. Jerry and Sheldon Shapiro rewarded you with a vacation for two anywhere in the United States to thank you for your 30 years of dedication. Where do you plan on going?

My girlfriend, Teresa and I have been talking about going to either Napa Valley, Yosemite National Park or possibly the 2014 Barrett-Jackson auto auction in Scottsdale, AZ.

THANK



YOU!!!