



Dr. Bob St. Clair, the man behind the legend...



OK, so anyone who knows Dr. Bob St. Clair, knows that he's the genuine article — no airs, no pretenses — just a hardworking guy with a beat up pickup truck and a big heart. But how did he come to be here at Lincoln Hospital? Now there's a story!

A native of Idaho Falls, Idaho, Dr. St. Clair attended the University of Idaho and studied pre-med. While at the U of I, he took part in the ROTC program and found a new love — flying. For the next 15 years, Dr. St. Clair flew the world with the Air Force, then the National Guard. Although being a pilot was exciting, our intrepid doctor knew there was more to life... enter the lovely and talented Jane Silver.

The two met when he, a real estate agent at the time, was selling a house and she was buying. "We met and that was it," the now Mrs. St. Clair says. And life has never been dull especially after the first of two children was born.

"I had a wife and a baby daughter and was looking at poverty, so I decided to go back to medical school and finish what I'd started," Dr. St. Clair laughs. Not only did he finish, he went back into the Air National Guard where he ran into his Davenport connection — surgeon Don Sebesta.

"We met in flight surgeon school in San Antonio. He said Lincoln County was a good place and for me, it was. It's close to an Air Force base, close Moscow where I'd gone to school and we wanted to get back to this area. That was 1989."

And Davenport has had it's rewards. "Small towns are great places to raise kids and medically, the fact that I've been able to treat and know whole families is most rewarding. I've seen kids I've delivered go to school and grow up. Pretty soon, they'll be having kids," he laughs, realizing how time has flown.

Unable to shake that love of flying, Dr. St. Clair has found a way to mix his passions. He is currently the State Air Surgeon, in charge of the entire Washington Air National Guard medical program. Wife Jane, a Lincoln Hospital transcriptionist, isn't surprised.

"I've always called him a Renaissance man because he's interested in so many things, and very talented," she says, noting he's a rancher, pilot, natural athlete and former Sun Valley Ski Patrol member among other notable achievements.

"I have a real appreciation for the kind of person he is," Jane smiles of their 21 years together. "He's truly kind and patient with a depth of character you don't always find. He's truly an honorable man."