

## Paul and Geneva Chiabotti

It was great to start the first column of this year with the Chiabotti's. I need to emphasize, again, that Marianne and I really enjoy doing this column because of the fun we have "interviewing" the various members of the Diablo A's family.

Paul is another native Californian – born in East Los Angeles. He attended Hoover High School and Glendale College. While in high school he played baseball and was also into acting. In fact he actually won the *Herbie Award* for acting. Is that where he got his booming voice – needing to project for plays?

Geneva is another member born in Arkansas – Judsonia to be exact. She attended several schools because of her father's job changes. She spent her freshman year in Arkansas, sophomore in California, junior back in Arkansas (where she played softball) and finally graduated from Burbank (CA) High School.

In 1959, when Paul was working as a bag boy in a store in Glendale, Geneva was working in a drugstore next door. One day she came into the grocery to visit with a checker and other employees when Paul saw her. It was love at first sight. After she left he asked the checker who she was and, in so many words, the checker told him to forget about her – Geneva was her daughter. When Geneva got home, she asked her mother who that good looking guy was and the response was the same – forget about it. It took Paul six months to get up the courage to go against the will of the checker/mother and he finally called her. Eventually they married on July 29, 1962.

When they married Paul was working as a delivery truck driver for Valvoline Oil Company. One of his stops was at the Glendale Police garage. The chief mechanic was Ed Whistler who, by the way, was the President of MAFCA. Ed took a liking to Paul and convinced him to apply for the Glendale Police. Paul retired from the force 25 years later. After that he was the State Security Officer for First Nationwide Bank for 14 years.

Geneva worked at First Interstate Bank as a teller and worked her way up through various position to Operations Manager in Walnut Creek.

While with the Glendale Police Department Paul became only the 4<sup>th</sup> officer in the nation to become a school resource officer – at Clark Junior High School in La Crescenta. His job was to teach a "police and the law" class.

Paul's grandfather was a Model A'er. His uncle gave him his first "A" in 1955. It was a sedan. Since he already had a hot rod his father said he would have to get rid of one. Of course he kept – the rod. (Big mistake in the interviewer's opinion.)

The Chiabotti's didn't get into Model A'ing until 1992 when they purchased a '30 pickup in Williams, which was not drivable. To cut a long story short – Larry Lee found a '29 pickup which was running and Paul bought it. He ended up restoring the '29 and the cab of the '30 ended up on the Grady's *Red Dog*. Bob in turn had a sedan body that is now part of the James' *Midnight*. Very interesting!

Paul and Geneva joined the Diablo A's in 1992. Geneva served as the Treasurer for 2 years and Paul was the Editor of the *Motometer* at the same time.

When asked about the most exciting things that had happened to them – Geneva said their wedding. She couldn't stop crying because she was so happy. Paul agreed that the wedding was exciting but added that his time teaching at Clark Junior High as part of the police outreach program was both exciting and fulfilling.

I asked what they would like to do that they have not yet done. Geneva said she has done everything she can think of but Paul said he would like "to write a best seller or be a lead in a motion picture."

Something that may be a surprise to the membership – Paul twice ran Charles Manson and his followers from an area where they were squatting. This was not too long prior to their killing spree in southern California. He also bowled on the Mary Tyler Moore bowling team. For Geneva – she's quite the daredevil. She enjoyed a glider ride she took but especially enjoyed doing loop-d-loops and flying upside down in a bi-plane. She said she was laughing and whooping the whole time.

