

Elsie Goines

Howard was born on a farm in Spiro, Oklahoma. At the age of 12 his family moved to Van Buren, Arkansas, where he graduated from high school in 1940. Three days after graduation he decided he had had enough of farming so he left home and went out on his own.

Elsie was born in Van Buren, Arkansas and attended Arkansas Polytechnical College in Russellville training to become an elementary school teacher.

In 1937 Howard (whose nickname was Popeye) was riding in a truck heading for a party at a dairy when he yelled "Stop the truck!" He had spotted a very attractive young lady in a rather tight sweater and immediately fell in love. Guess who? Of course, Elsie. This led to an on-and-off courtship since Elsie was in school at Russellville and Howard had taken a job with Beech Craft in Wichita, Kansas.



Howard and Elsie eventually married on Christmas Day 1941, in the home of a minister in Van Buren.

They have 3 children, 7 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren. As most of you know, one of the daughters, Paula, is also a club member with her husband Jerry Belden.

In World War II Howard was a member of the 8th Air Force, 3rd Division, 48th Combat Wing, 388th Group from 1943-1945 and was stationed at Knettishall Air Field in Knettishall, England. He was in charge of a group loading bombs and ammo onto B17's. There were 333 missions flown out of that field during his enlistment. While Howard was in England, Elsie spent her time teaching school in Arkansas.

After WWII they were undecided as to where to settle. Elsie's sister lived in California and talked them into coming here. Everyone said that they would come back "home" to Arkansas but Howard said that they would stay at least one year. They arrived in October, 1946 and never left.

Elsie attended San Francisco State graduating from there with a degree in Education. She taught elementary school in the Carquinez School District for 30 years. After her official retirement she continued to substitute for another 10 years. At the time of her retirement she was the only teacher to have taught in all five schools in the district.

Howard, during this time, was working for Judson Pacific Murphy in Emeryville where he was involved in building the trusses for the Carquinez Bridge. Later he was also involved in the building of the Benicia Bridge. He finished his employment years with Dymo in Richmond. (He recently participated in a tour of the inside of the new Benicia Bridge. Ask him about it – it's very interesting.)

They built their home in Pinole themselves. They would visit some sites where homes were being constructed, see how it was done, and then go home and do the same thing to their house. After moving to Rodeo, their daughter, Nan, occupied this house. The Goines' home is still standing in Pinole.

They have been involved with Model A clubs since 1964 when they first joined the Bay Area club in San Francisco. Shortly after the Diablo A's were formed they joined our club. Elsie served as Secretary in 1986 and Howard was Tour Coordinator in 1984.

Howard's #1 hobby is constructing unique Model A's. Probably the impetus for that was after a very long, hot Model A trip Elsie informed Howard that she would not do another unless he could make the car air-conditioned. This led to the construction of a Fordor with air-conditioning and a V-6 engine. (Elsie was involved in part of the design of the car when she suggested that the air-conditioner be put where the gas tank was and that the gas tank be moved under the back seat.) He constructed a duplicate of this for his daughter, Paula (and Jerry) with everything, including the color being the same, but with a V-8 instead of a V-6.

Most of the club members have seen the one and only Model A limousine designed and built by Howard. Following the construction of the limo he built an opera-window coupe with all the accretments including torsion bar suspension. He is now working on an extended-cab Model A truck. When it comes to modernizing Model A's, Howard is a genius and all of these vehicles are works of art.

Marianne and I always look forward to our periodic visits and lunch with Elsie and Howard – although we have never eaten at Howard's favorite restaurant – Taco Bell.