

## Ken and Elaine Matheson

Marianne and I recently spent one of those wonderful, warm Indian Summer afternoons “interviewing” Ken and Elaine at their beautiful home. (Remember those nice warm days just a few weeks ago?) In return we had to promise Elaine that she would be the one to interview us at some future point – so I guess I’ll have to keep their darkest secrets to myself.

Ken was born in San Francisco. (It seems as if our club members are either native Californians or from the mid-west.) He graduated from Lincoln High School in San Francisco and eventually attended Diablo Valley College on the GI Bill and graduated from there. (He actually attended DVC about the same time Marianne started working there.)

Elaine also was born in San Francisco and graduated from Lincoln High School – but she and Ken didn’t meet there. She majored in French (bon jour!) at UC Berkeley.

Ken and Elaine actually met while playing a neighborhood game of street football on 43<sup>rd</sup> Street in San Francisco on Thanksgiving. Their first date was to the opening of *Goldfinger* – so if you want the date you can Google it.

They were married on May 5, 1968, in Carson City, Nevada – and it was actually their 2<sup>nd</sup> try. Elaine had forgotten her driver’s license the first time. The second time was also eventful because Elaine said she was laughing so hard that the Justice of the Peace asked her if she really did want to get married. (I can envision that since most of the time when you see Elaine she seems to be laughing about something.) They have two daughters and 4 grandchildren – 2 boys and 2 girls.

Ken served in the Navy during the Vietnam War on a heavy cruiser – the USS Canberry which was named for a ship that was sunk during WWII. He was a member of the deck crew. If you remember the capture of the *Pueblo* off North Korea in 1968 – his ship was one sent to mirror the movement of the Russian ships.

Ken will soon be retiring from PG&E. He started in 1964, had a break while in the service, and then returned to them working in a variety of positions.

Elaine has had a variety of jobs but has been a travel agent for the past 15 years, and as a result they have been able to do a great deal of traveling. At one point Elaine had a fear of flying and has pretty much overcome that because of all the traveling. (Marianne and Elaine compared anxiety notes when that came up.)

Ken actually became interested in cars during his teens. His first car was a 1953 Studebaker he purchased for \$15.00 – which he traded for a 1955 Ford Crown Victoria. His first Model A was a 1928 Phaeton which he got in 1993. In 1996 he bought a 1929 fordor (known as Edward).

At that point we took a tour of his “castle” – the garage he built in his backyard with the help of Tom Sharman. (I found it humorous that he calls his second garage “the castle” since that is what Marianne named our second garage when we had it built.) In it we saw a completed running gear he purchased from a man who kept the Vicky body to hot rod. (Oh the sacrilege!!!) Ken is currently looking for a Vicky for keep your eyes open.

While working for PG&E Ken was the serviceman that went to Howard and Elsie Boarman’s house to turn on and off their gas heaters. After a few trips he noticed their Model A and it caught his interest. They told him about the Diablo A’s and after buying “Edward” the Mathesons joined the club in October 1996 – the same time we joined. Ken was Vice-President in 2002. The Matheson also co-hosted the Mystery Tour that took us to Santa Rosa where our entertainment was the Murder Mystery Dinner. (They had never been on a Mystery Tour themselves.)

Other than the birth of their children and grandchildren, the most exciting thing for Ken was leaving home and joining the Navy. He said it really taught him a lot. Elaine said that they have done a lot of exciting things and couldn’t pinpoint anything in particular – but she did enjoy flying first class back from Germany on one of their trips.

Elaine has a wide variety of interests – she enjoys reading, sewing, cooking, gardening, traveling and “just loves life.” In fact she made a wonderful homemade soup for us for lunch.

Ken likes to fish for bass and trout and is looking forward to his retirement when he can do more of that. If Ken could do one thing still he would like to go to the Indy 500 or some begin NASCAR event like that.

We really had an enjoyable afternoon with Elaine and Ken – and as usual we spent a lot of time laughing.

