

## Barbara & Tom Sharman

Marianne and I had another great day interviewing a Diablo A's family. We spent a lot of time laughing with the Sharmans.

Both Tom and Barbara were born in San Francisco. Although they actually attended the same elementary school (Tom was two years ahead of Barbara) they didn't know each other. Tom graduated from Wilmerding High School where he played football, basketball and baseball. He also attended San Francisco City College. Barbara attended Notre Dame Victories High School graduating in 1955.

In 1954 Tom and Barbara met at a teen dance at All Hollows Church. Tom was Barbara's Friday night date and someone else had Saturday night. Tom said his yellow 1949 Chevrolet "won Barbara over."

They married on October 6, 1956 at the same church. They have 3 children, two boys and a girl and 4 grandchildren, 2 boys and 2 girls. No great-grandchildren yet.

Before they moved to their present home, Tom built two of their homes in the Bayview area of San Francisco.

Tom spent his working years in the construction industry doing carpentry. In 1974 he started work for Contra Costa County. He told us some great stories about his experiences working in the county jail which kept us in stitches. I don't have time to tell you them here, but one I especially liked was when he got locked on the roof of the jail and tried to get people on the sidewalk to let him out. I'm sure I'd help someone on the roof of the jail!!! Be sure to ask him about some of his other stories.

Barbara spent her life as a "domestic goddess" raising the kids and helping Tom restore their beautiful historic house. As most of you know, they bought the John Swett house and adobe in Martinez. At that time only one room in the main house was being used.

When they first bought the house, Tom still worked in the City and was only home on weekends. He and Barbara spent that time restoring the main house. Barbara and the kids lived in the adobe behind the house with very little electricity and virtually no kitchen – a city girl became a country girl. She learned how to can, raise chickens and rabbits, and from 1968-69 took care of Tom's grandmother who had a room in the main house. Tom also left her with a 1950 stick shift car – and she didn't know how to drive a stick. Some of Marianne's favorite stories are about the bats that lived in the house. When asked how she handled all of this, Tom answered that "there were times I stopped her at the door." I wish we had more room to relate the story about the history of this house – but ask Barbara and Tom, they love to share it.

They purchased their first Model A in 1964 while in San Francisco. It was a 1930 coupe. When driving it home it overheated and "steamed all the way home." They drove it to church and it steamed to and from church. It was never driven again.

In 1995 they purchased a 1928 Tudor. That's when they met Weldon Shore who invited them to join the club.

When I asked Tom what would be the one thing he would like to do that he has never done – drive a steam locomotive was the answer. His other main hobby is doing HO model railroads, so it seems somewhat appropriate that he would actually like to drive one. Barbara, when asked the same question, said she would like to learn to drive a Model A. (Is it time for another driving lesson for the ladies?)

They both said that one of the most exciting things they have done or experienced was buying and restoring the Swett House. You can understand that response when you look at what they've done. But Barbara also mentioned that one of her great experiences was going back to her ancestral home in Malta. Both she and Tom had a wonderful experience on that trip.

Barbara has been the Historian in the club and has been gracious to host 3 Ladies Tea tours to their beautiful home.

Thank you both for an enjoyable afternoon.

