

Getting to know you in our Custom Classic Corner

Contributed to website by Bruce/aka NVRDONE

"Creating memories-one drive at a time" ~Unknown

Spotlight on: Mark Lundberg

The last two months we got to read about the oldest member of the club- a member for forty years-and this month we get to know one of our newest members- a member of Vintiques for just two months.

Mark grew up in Toppenish and his wife Barbara grew up in Wapato. Mark and Barbara were high school sweethearts from rival schools. They were married in 1975 and this December will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. They share two sons, one daughter-in-law and a two-year-old grandson.

In high school, Mark played basketball and he also enjoyed snow skiing. One of the rules at that time was that a student could only be in one sport at a time. Well Mark was not a rule follower then, as one day he got caught skiing in the morning and playing basketball at night. Mark's coach played Mark in JV and Varsity until he found out then the coach nearly cut Mark from the program after news of Mark's dual sport activities. Mark was given a choice: skiing or basketball. Mark chose basketball.

Mark and Barbara's working years were very industrious. Mark's worked for Seneca Foods, Inland Fruit, and Clasen Fruit, which later sold to Columbia Valley Fruit. In 1979 Mark was hired at Seneca Foods, working in dispatch and receiving. He later moved to Inland Fruit, becoming a horticultural specialist, working with growers to improve their crops. He eventually landed at Clasen Fruit, later becoming Columbia Valley Fruit, working his way up to General Manager and CEO. Mark finally retired in 2023, when the company closed. Barbara retired in 2022, finishing her career as co-owner of a small insurance (health/life/Medicare) brokerage firm in the lower valley.



Mark has always enjoyed vintage cars. His first car was a '68 Chevy Malibu with a 327/3 speed that he switched to a four speed. Mark revealed that this was his favorite car. Mark has also had two '74 Novas and five El Caminos.

Mark and Barbara now have a '68 T-Bird convertible of which less than 5000 were produced. Marks' dad originally owned it and stored it for ten years at the hop ranch that he

managed in the lower valley, driving it occasionally. Mark and Barbara then bought the car from him in 1990 and stored it at their farm in Zillah. When Mark and Barbara moved to West Valley in 2012 the car was stored at the fruit warehouse where Mark was employed. After Mark retired in 2023, he began the restoration process. Most of the work was done by Moxee Muscle Cars and Chris's Upholstery shop with Mark chasing the needed parts. The T-Bird was then completed in the fall of 2024.



While the T-Bird was being restored, Mark became interested in clubs with cars and attended get-togethers involving cars. He got involved with Cars, Coffee and Chrome and the Wednesday Night get togethers throughout the summer. Mark and Barbara took the car to several car shows this year, even winning a few awards. He was then asked to show it at the

Rod Run in August and then in October Mark was invited to this year's Un-Run, where Al Strader convinced him to join Vintiques. Mark is enjoying being a part of Vintiques and is developing many new friendships.

Mark and Barbara are enjoying their retirement years with their T-Bird, driving it all over Yakima and the surrounding area, including a trip to a car show in Packwood. Barbara especially enjoys riding in the T-Bird in nice weather with the convertible top down, however she has never driven the car. Mark is a personable man with a great sense of humor. I was not able to meet Barbara during this interview but will make it a point to seek them out at the next meeting! If you have yet to meet them, please join me in welcoming Mark and Barbara to the club.



