

## TIMELINE (#1) OVERVIEW OF TOM'S LIFE

1. **BORN** - I was born on February 9, 1936 *in the house* (not hospital) at 3951 Trowbridge St. in Hamtramck, Michigan (a suburb of Detroit). This house was owned by my grandmother, Vincenta Hechlik Niedzielska. There were several other family members living there at the same time. I checked Google recently and found that this house is still standing and is in good shape.

2. **DETROIT** - My family moved to 7058 Milton St., Detroit 5, Michigan, in late 1937 (when I was about 1.5 years old). I started kindergarten at Lynch Elementary School in 1941. Google indicates that both the house and school are still standing and are in good shape.

I was originally enrolled as Thomas Bojnarowicz. Our (dad, mom and me) last name was legally changed to Boyer in 1945. Uncle Marion, Aunt Elenore and, perhaps, Uncle Teddy changed their names to Boyer at the same time. Aunt Mary Bojnarowicz *did not* have her name changed. She reasoned that she'd be getting married soon and didn't want *another* name change. (She married Robert Hopps in 1948.)

At various times, the following people lived with us at 7058 Milton Street: Antonina (Bushia) Bojnarowicz, Mary Bojnarowicz (before she got married), Eugene Kowalski, Theresa Sunday (nee Mikol), Frank (Clem) Sunday and Cynthia Sunday (who was born while living there but not in the house).

3. **GREENBUSH** - We moved to Greenbush, Michigan on February 22, 1947 (just after I turned 11). My family and the Edward Hechlik family formed a partnership and purchased the old Greenbush Tavern.

During the summers of 1949 thru 1951 (ages 13 thru 15), I worked as a caddy at the nearby Greenbush Golf Course. During the summers of 1952, 1953 and beginning of 1954 (ages 16 thru 18), I worked at Lost Lake Woods Club in Lincoln, Michigan (20 miles north of Greenbush).

4. **GENERAL CONVEYORS** - During most of the summer of 1954 plus the summers of 1955 thru 1957 (ages 18 thru 21), I worked as a conveyor designer at General Conveyors Corp, located just north of Detroit. I lived at 3 different rental rooms during those 4 summers.

5. **COLLEGE** - I attended the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor from September, 1953, through June, 1958. I took 4 ½ years of engineering classes and ½ year of business administration classes. I received my Bachelor of Science in Engineering (Mechanical Engineering) Degree on June 14, 1958.

For my first 3 years there, I lived in a dormitory (Lloyd House, West Quadrangle). During my next to last year, my roommate and I rented rooms in an old 3-story house in Ann Arbor. During my final year, my 3 roommates and I rented an old 2-story house in Ypsilanti (8 miles away).

6. **INITIAL ENGINEERING JOBS** - Directly after college graduation in 1958, I went to work for Chrysler Corp / Missile Division (CCMD). I lived with my parents in an old 2-story house on the north side of Detroit. After 8 months of work there, I was laid off.

I quickly found a job at North American Aviation / Columbus Division and moved into a studio apartment in Columbus, Ohio. After 7.5 months of work there, I was laid off again.

7. **MARRIED** - While I was employed at CCMD and was bowling in a mixed league, I met Barbara Dupuie, who also worked at CCMD. We dated briefly before I got laid off. After I had been living in Columbus for a short time, Barbara quit her perfectly good job, found a job at North America Aviation, and moved to Columbus.

Right after I got laid off at North American Aviation, Barbara and I got engaged, and she quit her job there. We got married in Detroit on November 21, 1959 and left on our honeymoon and drove to Pomona, California.

8. **NEXT JOBS** - I had a job waiting for me at the Pomona Division of General Dynamics Corp. We stayed in Pomona for almost 2 years, living in 1 rental apartment and 2 rental houses. Our son David was born in Pomona on 10/2/60.

We moved to Chatsworth, California (in the San Fernando Valley) in 1961. Our son Robert was born in nearby Canoga Park on 3/6/63. We lived in a rental house and then bought our first house there.

I worked for almost 4 years at the Atomics International Division of North American Aviation in Canoga Park. I helped design small nuclear reactors (about the size of 3 breadboxes) for space applications. It turned out that there was no market (and still isn't, over 50 years later) for these types of reactors. I was placed on loan to Douglas Aircraft in Long Beach (55 miles away) for the last 10 months and commuted there daily. I quit before they laid off everybody. This division folded shortly thereafter.

9. **SAN DIEGO** -Barbara and I surveyed San Diego long before I quit work and we decided that it was the right place for us to live. I applied for jobs at the 4 large aerospace companies in town and received offers from 3 of them. I accepted the job offer at Solar Turbines.

We moved from Chatsworth on Thanksgiving day, 1965, into a rental house in San Diego. Our son Glen was born in San Diego on 12/16/65. We bought our house at 4192 Avati Dr. before it was built and moved there in June of 1966.

I didn't like working at Solar Turbines so after exactly one year (1966), I quit and went across the street (literally) and accepted a job at General Dynamics / Convair Division.

I received my Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering Degree from San Diego State University in 1977. (I was the oldest member, by far, of my graduating class.)

I worked in several different departments at Convair for the next 28 years and retired in June of 1994. My retirement followed the end of "The Cold War" and the effect it had on the defense industry. Subsequently, both of the huge General Dynamics facilities in San Diego were bulldozed down to the ground. The Lindbergh Field plant that produced over 7000 B-24 bombers during World War II is now a large airport parking lot. The Kearny Mesa plant that built the Atlas Rocket that put John Glenn in orbit has been reduced to 1 multi-story building.

10. **WIDOWED** - My wife Barbara died on November 23, 1993 - after a 2-year bout with breast cancer. She went through a lengthy treatment of radiation and chemotherapy and was declared cured. A month later another lump was discovered in essentially the same location. She went through identically the same radiation treatments but different chemo treatments. Finally, she couldn't stand the treatments any longer and told her oncologist to stop. She lived less than 6 more months.