

TIMELINE (#3) TOM & BARBARA MEET AND DATE

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Although Barbara Dupuie and I both worked at Chrysler Corporation Missile Division (CCMD), we did not meet by bumping into each other in the hallway there. During the late summer of 1958, I had been working there for a few months. I saw a sign on one of the company bulletin boards announcing the last call for bowling league sign-ups. I decided that I would like to be on a men's bowling team.

I contacted the man in charge of the Chrysler Missile bowling leagues and requested to be placed on a men's team. He informed me that I was too late and all such teams were filled up. Although I insisted, he said that I'd have to wait until the following season. However, he said that there were still a few openings in the Upsetters League, an industry-wide mixed league. Each team was composed of 3 men and 2 women. Not thinking very well and being ever so macho, I told him that I didn't want to bowl with women. I had to be convinced by a close friend that bowling in this mixed league was better than not bowling at all. So I reluctantly signed up to bowl with women. Kismet!

Barbara told me later that she didn't want to bowl on a mixed league, either; she wanted to bowl on a women's league. But several girlfriends convinced her to bowl on the league that they had already joined. Kismet, again! The Upsetters League bowled at the Eastgate Bowl in East Detroit, on Wednesday nights.

OUR FIRST MEETING

As it turned out, I was assigned to a good team, the Hurons. We eventually won the trophy as the best team in our league. Although *Barbara was not on my team*, it didn't take me long to spot her a few lanes over on the very first bowling night. She was very statuesque, slender and, of course, attractive.

A few weeks later, on **September 24, 1958**, my team bowled against her team, the Sioux. Since we were each the most conscientious member of our respective teams, Barbara and I did the majority of scorekeeping (except when we were actually bowling). The 2 scorekeeping chairs were fixed in place and were very close together. It didn't take long before we were bumping into each other (either accidentally or on purpose). She saw that I was keeping score using a Chrysler pencil and asked me if I worked there. I told her that I worked at the Missile Division and she replied that she did, too. With that in common, it was easy to strike up a conversation. I was very smitten by her but, for some reason, didn't ask her for a date then. I was pleased to learn that she had just broken up with her boyfriend Jerry recently.

OUR FIRST DATE

Surprisingly, more than a month passed before we had our first date, on Sunday, **October 26, 1958**, in Detroit. I had invited her to watch me play in a touch football game between my Structural Design team and another team from Chrysler Missile. At the game she met my parents, who were also there for the first time. In front of this vast audience, I scored one of the 3 touchdowns in our 18 - 0 victory. Later, my parents told me that they were very favorably impressed by Barbara.

After the football game, Barbara and I went to my parents rented house at 19369 Spencer St. She watched television while I showered and cleaned up. We talked and watched TV for awhile before going to Singin' Sams Restaurant to share a pizza. After dinner we went to the Bel-Air Drive-In Theater to see "The Big Country" (with Gregory Peck) and a second movie.

On a bowling night several weeks later (after we had several more dates), I noticed that Barbara was talking to a man at the nearby snack bar. I surmised, correctly, that it was her previous boyfriend Jerry and I became insanely jealous! I asked her about their meeting and she assured me that she was still trying to get rid of him. And so she did, for I never saw or heard about him again.



First photo ever taken of Tom Boyer and Barbara Dupuie together. Tom's parents' house; Detroit, Michigan. 1/1/1959 (New Year's Day).



Barbara Dupuie and Tom Boyer. Tom's apartment; Columbus, Ohio. March, 1959.