

Larry La Bonte

Becomers Mystery Person of the week - January 27, 2008

Born on February 2, 1937 on Groundhog's Day in Detroit, Michigan. In French, my last name means "the goodness".

I am the only boy in the family. I have two older sisters.

Joined the Salvation Army Church when I was 10 years old. Played coronet on street corners for the Salvation Army band... and even marched.

Started working when I was 11 years old - paper route. Bought my parents their first TV set when I was 13 yrs.

Had high single game 273 and high series 613 in bowling at age 15.

Taken out of Jr. high and to the police station for breaking and entering. (Actually one of my friends opened a pop bottle on a garage door latch in an alleyway.)

Used to street race - had a fast car (rod).

Played basketball and tennis in high school, and in Henry Ford Community college (2 years)

On student body council in high school.

First meaningful kiss... on a high school hayride.

Had a sculpture (wood) displayed in Dearborn, Michigan Museum.

Met my future wife after my first year in college during summer recess on a blind date... I was fixed up with her girlfriend. My wife and I went to the same high school, but didn't know each other. We were married the summer of 1962... she put me through the last year of college.

Graduated from Miami University (Oxford, Ohio) 1963. A week later our first daughter was born, our second daughter was born 2 years later.

Embarrassing moment: When I was 11 years old. a neighborhood Irish Setter came courting my dog (who was in heat) and mistook me for my dog. Every time I tried to get away (we were face to face)... the dog would growl. My buddies would tell me it was OK to come outside, and then laugh their heads off when the dog would have his way with me. By the way... I used to have red hair.

Came to California in September of '63', went into my own business in 1975, and I'm still working.

Famous People:

- Played baseball with Bo Shembechler (coach at Miami U and U of Michigan).
- Met John Font (Miami U and U of Indiana football coach).
- Mark Grace (1st baseman for the Chicago Cubs) dated my daughter.
- Played basketball and football w/ Bruce Maher (defensive back - New York Giants (NFL)).
- Met and worked for Jack Nicklaus ... professional golf great, white employed by Golf Course Architect Desmond Muirhead/Jack Nicklaus Partnership.
- Know golf greats Ken Waltz and Jim Kok... also played golf with them.
- Know TV soap star actress Tina Orr.
- Know all the Becomers (all superstars).