

BILL & EVA TAGGART

April 25, 2012

The story of my life, as Neil Diamond says, began and will end with my wife Eva.

I joined Monsanto in 1962, as a chemical engineer fresh out of college. It was in the research department of the Plastics Division in Springfield, Massachusetts. Monsanto sponsored me with an academic leave, with pay, to attain my Ph.D. in Polymer Science at the University of Massachusetts in 1970. I was shaken and somewhat lost, when my first marriage ended in 1975. But, Monsanto came through for me, again, with an opportunity to join the New Enterprise Division/Optoelectronics ESP Business in 1976. It gave me a chance to start a new life. I am very grateful to Monsanto. Life in California and the people in ESP were magnificent and exciting. The most fun years of my career were the four years in this group and my final five years, which were spent at Siemens Optoelectronics group.

Not long after General Instrument acquired the Opto business from Monsanto, a woman by the name of Eva Szoke Pista came to work in our group. It was love at first sight. I pursued her until she caught me. In today's world, my efforts might be defined as sexual harassment. We married February 27, 1982 and have been happily sharing our lives ever since.

When down-sizing came (ca. 1984) Eva moved on to Spectra Diode Labs/Xerox. I continued with GI/Quality Technologies until 1992. After two years with EPRI, I was in the unemployment lines.

In 1995/1996 Siemens Opto purchased the solid state relay business from ATT/Lucent Technologies. Mike Bottini graciously hired me to be the manager for that product line. After five wonderful and rewarding years, I retire on August 31, 2001.

While, traveling much of the world, frequently, in my responsibilities with Siemens Opto; I spent quite a few hours on airplanes. I used that time to design a retirement home. In 1999 we purchased 5 acres in a horse community in Shingle Springs. In 2000, we built the home I designed.

In 1986, I had a revelation experience with the Holy Spirit, which brought me back to the Christian faith. During retirement, we have spent our time studying scripture, practicing our faith. We enjoy time with our grandchildren and working our property. Eva visits her family in Hungary, about every second year. In 2006, I took up bridge in a serious way and addictively play at every opportunity.

Eva and I send all our love to those attending the reunion. We are sorry to miss it.



Bill & Eva with grandkids