

NICK BARBER

Memory Booklet





I was born in Schenectady, New York on October 20, 1942 to Nicholas and Thyra of 369 Melrose Street. One of my favorite memories from my youth is building Lionel Trains and radios.



One of my greatest friends in life was my dog Ginger. If I was able to change one thing about my life, I would have become a veterinarian. I always loved and cared for animals, even from a young age.

One of the most influential people in my life was Dr. Howard Wakeland, the Dean of the College of Engineering at the University of Illinois who believed in me.

What do you consider the happiest moment of your life?

Graduation from college - University of Illinois - BSME. It was special because I feel like I made it when my family never believed I would. I now had a direction to my life and a career.

What is one activity that you hope to accomplish in the next year?

Visit the University of Illinois. I have not been back in 20 years.



**I married my wife Pat in 1962.
One of my favorite things about Pat is her undying support.**

In a history book about your life, what would the highlight be?

“I took care of my family, animals, and friends.”



Describe the proudest moment you have had of your children.

When my daughter Sharon graduated from high school in Hendersonville, Tennessee. She has Crohn's Disease from age 12. She was out of school the last three months of her senior year and she did what she needed to do at home and graduated. I am so thankful for my daughter Sharon and I am so proud of the mother she has become.



I love travelling to North Carolina and Disney for family vacations, and going to Pasadena, California to see my beloved Illinois Fighting Illini in the Rose Bowl.

What was your favorite travel destination?

The 1984 Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California. Pat and I went to the 1984 Rose Bowl. We spent five days there. We started at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel and went to many store on Rodeo Drive. We saw two million dollar jewelry, \$100,000.00 serving trays and \$30,000 dresses. We went to the game, parade, and pep-rally. It was a fun week. [Final Score was] Illinois 9, UCLA 45.

What technology have you found most helpful in your life?

“The calculator and a computer. I use both for information and calculations. I don’t use social media.”

How would life have been different if you had today’s technology when you were younger?

“Much less human interface - we used to talk face to face, play cards, go bowling. People built relationships by talking, building trust, and doing things together.”

What are you most proud of in your life? This could be an accomplishment, your marriage, children, etc.

I took care of my family the best I knew how. I am also proud of my granddaughter Brittny, now age 30, and my grandson Austin, now age 27. I am proud of my wife Pat, who has M.S. and dementia.

What was your biggest takeaway from the happiest moment of your life?

If you persevere and walk through the fear you can accomplish your goals in spite of negativity and no emotional family support.

What did you learn from your obstacles in life?

Don't give up. Find some people to encourage you.



1984

As a fan of the Fighting Illini, Nick and his wife Pat go to the Rose Bowl game in Pasadena, California in 1984, but he sees his beloved Illini lose to UCLA by a score of 45-9.



Sharon

Nick's fondest memory of Sharon as a little one was when she covered the entire crib in one pound of vaseline! Nick is most proud to see the amazing mom Sharon has become.



Ginger

Nick speaks fondly of his dog Ginger, who he calls one of his greatest friends.

Life Principles

- 1. Be true to thine own self.**
- 2. Do not live your life in fear.**
Fear is the thief of dreams.
- 3. Do not let other people control you through fear.**
- 4. Have integrity.**
- 5. Don't lie to yourself.**

Vacations

Nick loves vacationing at Disney, especially around Christmas. Nick desires to visit Nags Head, North Carolina for some beach time, fishing, and some quiet. He mentions wanting to visit his alma mater, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.



1962

Nick marries his wife Pat. Nick met his wife Pat during high school and he was only 20 years old when they were married. Nick and Pat had one daughter together who they named Sharon.



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1950

Nick would spend some time during the Summers at Lake Champline in Benson, Vermont.

**Son Born To
N. J. Barbers**

Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas J. Barber of 639 Melrose St. have announced the birth of a son, Nicholas James Jr., at the Ellis Hospital Tuesday night.

Nick Barban is the proud father of a new born son. Congratulations.



1942

Nick is born on October 20, 1942 at Ellis Hospital in Schenectady, New York to Nicholas and Thyra of 369 Melrose Street.

1953



Nick speaks fondly of his parents. We learn how his father worked for General Electric and his stepfather worked for a Naval Depot. We learn that Nick would listen to baseball games with his step dad, and he loved the New York Giants. Here is a photo of Nick and his mother Thyra with a 1953 Hudson Jet.



1948

Nick grows up in a small cottage on Chiswell Street and he has a room for his Lionel Trains. Nick dreams of being an engineer as a child because he likes to build things. This is also evident because we learn about how Nick built Lionel Train layouts, a woodworking shop, and crystal and transistor radios!

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ELLEN LAW



RUTH FEIGENBAUM



JEROME REHR

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