

Tom is 62 and definitely not retired. That is why they do not come to many meetings as they make fantastic pottery and attend events every weekend to sell their creations. A former schoolteacher, Tom found his calling as a potter in the 70's and has been happily designing ever since.

When you can't afford to have something for a very long time and then you can, you sometimes go overboard, which is exactly what Tom and Denise did. During the last 10-15 years, they owned several British cars. In the seventh grade, Tom had a sports car nut for a teacher. He taught the class about hot rods, dragsters, sports cars, etc. They worked on a hand built steering wheel for his Porsche in class. This made a lasting impression on Tom at the time. To top it off, his 1962 high school art teacher drove a 1004 Healey to school every day in Mason City, Iowa. Tom used to autocross in the Sears parking lot in Mason City. Yes, Tom is from Iowa.

Denise and Tom own two TR-3's. One of them is still in Iowa after they restored it. They also own two 100-4 Healeys, plus another BN2 at a restorer in Orlando. They belong to the Central Florida Austin Healey Club but have not seen their fellow members in years. After owning cars with roll up windows in a MGB and TR-6, they had enough of that silliness and decided they liked the simpler roadsters best. They feel you wear a Healey but TR-3's drive like little trucks. However, they love them both.

Denise is 54...same age as her 100-4 Healey and considers it the big diamond ring she does not have. She drives hers! She went to vocational school in 1973 in Albert Lea, Minnesota to become a mechanical draftsman.

Her first year teacher was always talking about this "Healey" he was restoring. She was the only girl in the class so a couple of guys would help him on weekends. She loved convertibles then but owned a 1964 Dodge Polara to drive, as at that time there wasn't much on the market for American convertibles, thanks to good old Ralph Nader! So the second best thing to marrying Tom was she got her first convertible, a 1973 TR-6. Later she got a car that looked like it should go to the junkyard – a 100-4 Healey. After using lots of paint remover, Tom and Denise discovered it had four coats of different colored paint

After a lot of good art shows in the mid 90's, Tom and Denise were fortunate to commission Richard Smith of Imagination Engineering in Orlando to restore her 100-4 Healey for them. It took about four years but has been worth it. They have always looked at their cars as fun and as an investment that will last and at least hold their value. They hope to get reorganized soon so they can spend more time with "the cars". They are very happy to belong to such an enthusiastic club here on the Nature Coast!