

Jean and Dennis are both native Floridians – Jean, in fact, is at least a 3rd generation Floridian on her father's side. She was born in Clearwater and obtained her bachelors degree from the University of Florida. (She is one happy Gator this year!) Dennis was born in Orlando and earned his bachelors and masters degrees from what is now the University of Central Florida. Dennis retired in February 2006 after working for 35 years with the Florida Department of Corrections (FDOC) where he worked in both major prisons and, for most of his career, in probation where he supervised high profile offenders. Jean began her career as a high school teacher, later became Personnel Director of a non-profit child care agency, followed by 11 ½ years supervising the employee relations area of District 7 of the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). She is still employed and was promoted a year ago to Human Resources Manager of the Employee Relations Division of the Pinellas County Government's Personnel Department where she has been employed for the past 6 years.

Sixteen years ago, while both Jean and Dennis were actively employed in state government, they entered the Certified Public Managers program offered by Florida State University's Center for Public Management. The CPM designation is a nationally recognized professional designation, and the Magees relate that they were fortunate in being able to earn their CPM designations in 2 years time – attending classes together and working on team projects together with some of Jean's FDOT peers. After graduating from the program, they founded a local chapter of the Florida Society of Certified Public Managers - Dennis, as President, and Jean, as Secretary. They then moved on to the state level where Dennis was elected for three terms as President, and Jean served on the Board of Directors. Both Magees became active in the American Academy of Certified Public Managers (AACPM) where Dennis was elected as President and Jean served on committees and in the House of Delegates at national conventions. The Magees, who are still active in the organizations, say that through their AACPM involvement, they have had some incredible experiences and made lasting friends throughout the county. Their CPM peers have joked that once you've got one Magee hooked, you've also got the other. However, Jean later earned her Senior Professional in Human Resources (SPHR) designation – without Dennis. She relates that it was not nearly so much fun without him! Both Magees have also been active in their community – Dennis by serving on a variety of boards, and Jean through her membership in Leadership Pinellas.

The Magees both had early interests in European cars. Jean owned and maintained a 1966 Volvo 122S for 35 years – completing a full restoration and finally giving the car to her nephew (and crying as the car was loaded on the transport for the trip North). Dennis owned two British cars in his youth – first an Austin Healey Sprite and then a Triumph GT-6. Approximately four years ago, the Magees purchased a 1972 MGB (the other love of Dennis' life) and completed a partial restoration. At that time, they joined the Florida Suncoast MG Car Club, the Tampa Bay British Car Club, and soon afterward, the Suncoast Classic MG Car Club/NatureCoast English Car Club. Soon after joining the clubs, Dennis became Newsletter Editor for the Florida Suncoast MG Car Club and the Web Master for the Tampa Bay British Car Club – both of which he continues at this time. The Magees relate that they truly enjoy the friends they've made and the playful spirit that the club activities evoke.

Dennis' interest in working on cars developed years ago when he began working as a teenager at his father's auto parts business (then Orlando Auto Supply), where he continued working full-time until age 22, when he graduated from college, and continued working part-time for some time after obtaining a career position with FDOC. His father's parts business was sold in 1972. Dennis says that the parts business is in his blood - his sister recently sold a chain that she and her late husband developed, Central Auto Parts, located in the center of the state. Due to his background in the auto parts business, and now owning an MGB, Dennis developed a small parts business for British cars. He sells unique items and higher quality parts for British cars with a focus on the potential savings that he is able to pass on to fellow club members. Dennis says that more significantly, through the business, he stays current on evolving issues for antique car owners and is able to find sources to solve some of the unique problems we encounter.

Approximately 5 years ago, the Magees (who will be celebrating their 20th anniversary in October) bought, and began renovating, a summer home in Dubois, PA. Jean's older brother and his family are all located within 3 – 5 hours of Dubois, so the home is already becoming "party central" for the Ruff (Jean's maiden name) and Magee families. Jean and Dennis love sharing their lake view with family and friends while sipping Manhattans – a specialty of Dennis' father. Recently, fellow car club members (British citizens and part-time American residents) Sallie and Dave Abel, visited with them and the two couples traveled into Canada to see the Canadian side of Niagara Falls.

The Magees say their Dubois house restoration work has reached a comfortable point, and now they are keeping their eyes peeled for a "daily-driver" (which Jean says means "cheap") old British car to use in exploring the back roads of northern PA.