

BILL BARBER

If you saw Bill Barber wearing his beret and his pipe clenched firmly between his teeth, you could make a bet that he would have a sporting vehicle in his garage. And you'd be right and win the bet: But more of that later.

Bill studied at Melbourne Pharmacy College and graduated in 1952. In February 1956, Bill and Marcia. were married and departed on an extended honeymoon in the United Kingdom. They arrived back in Australia in November 1957 and Bill became the pharmacist in Emerald, where he stayed for many years. Towards the end of his time in Emerald, Bill suffered some bouts of ill-health and he and Marcia retired to the Mornington Peninsula in 1990. Following the recovery of his health and needing to keep himself occupied, Bill took a post with the Commonwealth Government as a Drug Inspector. This position took him all over Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory visiting the various drug manufacturing companies until he finally retired in 2000. Bill and Marcia had four children, Ian the eldest, then Anne, Stuart and the youngest is David. Marcia is now the proud grandmother of seven grandchildren.

Bill was a keen member of the Vintage Sports Car Club (Vic) and the Alvis Car Club of Victoria and regularly attended their meetings.

He was a contributor to many discussions and could be depended on to provide a "bon mot" at the appropriate time during the exchange of views. He read many newly-printed motoring books and wrote reviews of these books for publication in the magazines of the above two clubs. Bill was the Editor of the Alvis Car Club Newsletter for three years and wrote many articles for publication in those two Newsletters over the years. Bill was noted for his dry sense of humour and one of his comments was "The Austin Light Twelve which wasn't and the Swift which wasn't either." But Bill was also a contributor to the motoring activities of both clubs and he drove his cars in competitive and touring events with verve and skill.

Bill would proudly tell you that he learnt to drive on his father's Alvis 12/50 saloon, which car he kept for many years. This car went to John Green, whom Bill described as "the verdant chemist from Montrose." He owned the green Alvis FWD now in the possession of Don Bosanquet. He bought the Alvis 12/70 tourer from John Murray of South Australia and now owned by Doug Galpen. He had in succession a Bugatti Type 40, a Daimler, a Lancia and a Bentley. He bought from Guenter Ibrom the Alvis 12/50 Ducksback (which was re-built by Rod Warriner) and now owned by Chester McKaige. He owned the ex Marc Pain (a Sydney club founder member) 4.3 litre saloon which is now owned by Richard Creed. His last car was the green Alvis Silver Eagle tourer built by Graeme Steinfeld and the family still retains this car.

Bill sadly passed away on the 13th of October 2003.

Rob Graham