

# JOHN AND KAREN HAGER

## A COUPLE ORIGINALS

John and Karen are Colorado natives – Idaho Springs and Burlington, respectively. John became interested in Oldsmobiles through his dad who worked for an Oldsmobile dealership (Krueger Motor Company) in Idaho Springs. He went to Northeastern Junior College then to Colorado State University, majoring in electrical engineering, after which he joined the U.S. Navy. Karen was enrolled at the University of Denver but had a calling for the military and also joined the Navy.

After active duty, both John and Karen were assigned to Buckley Air Force Base for reserve duty, which is where they met. They were married and had three children – two daughters, Holly and Julie, and a son, Kevin. They presently live in Idaho Springs where, in addition to cars, they have many varied and interesting hobbies.

John's first car was a 1959 Oldsmobile convertible that he had purchased in 1967. He said the color was sometimes called salmon; he called it pink. It was probably Russet, according to the color codes for that year.

Years later, at a car show at Jim Blum's Oldsmobile dealership in Englewood, John spotted another 1959 Oldsmobile convertible like the one he had when he was younger; it belonged to RMOC member, Mike Watson. This rekindled his interest in Oldsmobiles.

After the meeting at Jim Blum's, John and Karen joined RMOC and have been consistent members for nearly forty years, virtually since its founding. Years ago, Karen served as club secretary and activities chair. She coordinated one of the best events ever – the club tour of NORAD at Cheyenne Mountain in Colorado Springs.

The Hagers have three Oldsmobiles at present: a 1969 Hurst Olds; a yellow 1969 442, which is yellow with "ginger" trim with a transplanted 455 CID engine; and a blue 1968 Cutlass "S" convertible. John bought the Cutlass S from Mike Watson. It was originally white in color but has been repainted and is a "work in progress."

John and Karen are active in other car clubs and have interests in marques other than Oldsmobiles. They had their first date in a 1957 Chevrolet, so they have a special affinity toward these cars as well as the Oldsmobiles. In fact, John helped start the Rocky Mountain Classic Chevy Club back in 1980, just before joining RMOC. Over the years, they have owned **thirty-seven** 1957 Chevys!

Currently, John and Karen own **seventeen** vehicles, mostly classics, which include their three Oldsmobiles, a 1965 Cadillac Eldorado convertible ... *and* a 1940 Chevrolet pickup truck. The truck, pictured below, is virtually all original, including the tires. It is the striking green with black fenders color combination common to that era. John said the pickup had belonged to his uncle who had taken delivery of the truck. It had come in on a train in a crate, standing on its tailgate and required some assembly. What a sight to behold!

John's two favorite cars among all those he has owned over the years is the '69 Hurst Olds (below) and that original '59 Olds convertible he had as a young man.



John and Karen have enjoyed RMOC and have lots of good things to say about the club. They expressed what most of us feel: the club provides camaraderie, friendship and a family-like atmosphere that is hard to beat. We appreciate the Hagers as among the originals who helped make the club what it is today.

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