

Barb and Jack Hanks



John C. "Jack" Hanks
October 10, 1929 – September 24, 2003

Romarie "Barbara" Hanks (nee: Retz)
November 23, 1930 – October 21, 2005

Born in Chicago, Jack migrated to California at the age of 12 and originally pursued a career as a chemical technician for an oil company. He decided to enroll in the Los Angeles Police Academy, and this led to a 20+ year term of service with LAPD, eventually heading up the Narcotics division. He took early retirement to escape the stresses of the LA scene – heading to the hills of Humboldt County. (Ironically, he relocated to an area known for one of California’s most prolific agricultural products that in his former career might have been considered anathema.) Jack pursued a second full career working for the California State Park system.

Barbara (renamed from the original “Romarie Joan” -- none of the grammar school teachers could spell “Romarie”) was born in Pacific Grove, CA – the daughter of a manager of the leading department store in that area, and relocated to Alhambra in the Los Angeles area.

Barbara and Jack met in the late ‘40s and were the proud parents of four sons: Mike, Randy, Gary, and Tim. They also became foster parents to four others: two foster daughters and two foster sons.

After leaving the Los Angeles area, Barb and Jack moved to Miranda, CA – on the “Avenue of the Giants” – and were the proud owners of the 17-acre property known as the “Funny Farm”. Jack was the primary contributor to the entertaining “Maple Hills Activities Report” – from January of 1974 through November of 1978.

Barbara was a fantastic cook (known for unsurpassed specialties such as “Barb’s special enchiladas”), and had a special knack at gardening and caring for animals. (It was rumored that she received some of these special talents from her grandmother, Nel Fares). She was also quite adept at launching excursions with the family trailer for camping trips with the boys – sometimes with adventurous results – like getting stranded in Bradley, CA with a severed electrical brake control cable – or having been stranded on the Hollywood Freeway (Barham Blvd.) – only to be rescued by her favorite member of LAPD – Jack Hanks.

Both Barb and Jack had a very kind heart, and will be missed tremendously.

Famous lines

(Regarding salting of food on a salt-free diet)

“There is something to be said about the quality of living”. – Jack

(Regarding priorities)

“The sooner, the quicker” – Barb