



Nancy, the collector

By Wendy Wooten, TEC #2321

The first thing I remember when it comes to coins and machines was begging my parents (Nancy and John Wooten, TEC #2132-LM and #2211-A) in the mid-1970s to give me their change so I could make the bear dance in the waiting area of Disneyland’s Country Bear Jamboree. I didn’t care about coins or elongateds then. I wanted to watch the bear!

It turns out that was around the time Nancy’s elongated collecting started. She was noticing them everywhere we traveled and that they made a cheap and yet different collectible from strange and unique locations. Early elongated coins of mine from Country Bear Jamboree ended up in her collection as one of the first of thousands of Disneyland coins and Knotts Berry Farm coins that are a major part of her collection to this day. That was her prime reason for collecting, and she started planning trips around locations of machines, as many of you do to this day.

While cleaning up all the travel supplies on the kitchen table, we ran across a book with pages printed from pennycollector.com, map pages, pictures of machines, and other information on the locations planned for this particular trip. This

will be an eye opener for all you young collectors because this was prior to phones being smart! John and Nancy would sit and plan the trip, looking at physical maps, following roads, and printing up locations along the way.

During her travels she also met with numerous coin engravers, machine makers, and other individuals involved in the creation of elongated coins, once meeting



Nancy Wooten, TEC #2132-LM, 1946-2022 (Photo by John Wooten)

Vance Fowler, TEC #805, and convincing him to sell all his machines to her! While she never had any machines out on site, she and John did use them to roll their own personal designs. She never was able to do the artwork herself, but there are so many talented engravers out there that the designs always came out beautifully. From her Mamma Grizzly coin to John’s Presidential Gopher coin, to their 50th wedding anniversary coin (shown below), they were always freely given out to the membership. She even used to carry them in her pocket on her second favorite thing to do, cruising!

Somewhere along the journey, she learned of The Elongated Collectors and in November of 1997 she became an active member. Nancy and John both attended the ANA show in Portland in 1998 becoming lifetime members of ANA, and that was when John became an associate member of TEC. Their travels continued and her collection



continued to grow, with most of the southern California events on her schedule as either searching for coins or helping if there was a booth. I remember one of the ones she really enjoyed was the Fan Fest because that was her first real introduction of a coin associated with an event associated with children! All the ANA shows were mostly adult-based, and so finding and helping with an event to help children was always something she looked forward to.

In 1999, she became the editor of *TEC News*, as well as vice president of the club itself. And in 2001 she was elected to president of the club. Due to conflicts in schedule and life, she was unable to complete the term and so **Bob Fritsch** stepped in. But she never stopped supporting the organization, even driving all the way to Baltimore to help run the table and again support the children. In 2007, she agreed to step back in as secretary. She then served two terms as governor before becoming president again in 2013.

She stayed active, traveling as she could, attending everything on the west coast and slightly inwards such as Denver and Phoenix, and sometimes traveling across the country like to Rosemont for the ANA convention 2013 to 2015. In 2016, she was very happy to be present at ANA in Anaheim to accept the award for TEC for its 50 years.

Sadly, by the time that the Rosemont convention came around in 2019 her health had started to decline and long trips were no longer feasible for her, and flying was never an option when you're carrying SO many coins and material through an airport. I know some of you have done this and you know how much fun it is not! That year I was the one that drove cross country with all the stuff for the TEC booth and let me tell you all that

crammed into my little Ford Focus was FUN! She was TEC's immediate past president for numerous years and was always there if someone needed information on a coin or event in the past. Where **Ray Dillard** was a font of information on the founding of TEC, Nancy was a font of information for its middle age years.

Towards the end of her active life, she was still looking for ways to help the young collectors out there. In her collection are numerous copies of *Yesterday's Elongateds*. She was going to ask individuals to write her with how and why they would use this book in their personal collection. If she felt your reasons had merit, then the book was yours. So, please, as a tribute to her, if you are a young collector, no matter what type of collector you are because I know this will be printed by both ANA and TEC, please write to John and me, and we will take over for Nancy. We have four books, all signed by the members at the particular convention, which she won at the TEC auction, and they are all first editions. You can reach us at John Wooten, 303 North Davis Street, Tehachapi, CA 93561.

Nancy never stopped looking for new coins, always helping those who needed them, and always supporting those that created and distributed them. May we all learn to be as gracious as she was and live our lives with joy and meaning and always look for ways to help the children who are coming up in the collecting world. Not to show them the value money-wise, but to show them the value story-wise for what they are collecting and why they are collecting. And may you have the joy of finding that one more coin to make your collection that much more.

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In memoriam Nancy Wooten, TEC #2132-LM

By TEC members

Nancy Evans Wooten was born October 8, 1946, in Los Angeles to Henry Clyde Evans and Gladys Moon Evans. In 1967, she married **John Wooten** and together they raised their daughter **Wendy Jean Wooten**. Nancy and John celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary this past April. She died June 2, 2022, following a long illness, and is survived by John and Wendy. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that you make a donation to your local animal shelter in her memory.

Nancy described herself as a “proud second generation Californian,” who enjoyed living in the small town of Tehachapi at an elevation of about 4,000 feet for the quiet and the clean air. At the same time, she equally enjoyed traveling, making friends, and, of course, collecting elongated coins.

After graduating from Hawthorne High School, Nancy worked for and retired from the General Services Administration, an independent agency of the U.S. government established in 1949 to help manage and support the basic functioning of federal agencies. Her long experience with the GSA would be called upon and applied to the benefit of TEC time and time again over the years.

As Nancy noted, one of her responsibilities at the GSA was the preservation of documents: “I worked for the Bureau of Reclamation in Boulder City, Nevada, in the central files. Part of our responsibility was to preserve items from the building of the dam for future generations. We were at the forefront of the preservation effort, being one of the first government entities to begin

transferring copies of the original documents to electronic storage.”

She later applied those talents to benefit of the club — for example, when she painstakingly gathered copies of every issue of *TEC News*, digitized them, and made them available to members on DVD. Similarly, she converted films made by early collectors and rollers that demonstrated the art of etching a die and operating a rolling machine into modern formats for posterity and the benefit of TEC members.

LONGTIME BOARD MEMBER

Much like the big names of TEC’s founders, Nancy took the long view of our club. From the start of her membership, she gave generously of her time, talent, and treasure. Within two years of joining TEC, she was serving as vice president and editor of the newsletter. From there and

over the next 22 years, she went on to serve as president, secretary, historian, governor, and president again. Her last position, immediate past president, ended less than a year ago. (Although she did not serve as treasurer or webmaster, it is quite likely that she could have “collected them all” and done those jobs, too.)

John and Nancy Wilson, TEC #1779-LM and #3782-LM: “With the passing of Nancy Wooten our club lost one of its hardest working members. Nancy was a person we admired and had great feelings for at the many conventions our paths crossed. Her love and dedication for The Elongated Collectors over many years will always be remembered. Attending most of the conventions, representing TEC, we always had great interactions and conversations. We will always cherish these special visits and memories.”



John, Nancy, and Wendy Jean Wooten roll cents at the TEC booth during 2015 ANA National Money Show in Portland, Oregon.

Terri Ventresca, TEC #4447: “I met Nancy in 2013, the second time she was sworn in as TEC president and the first year that I attended a TEC meeting. In 2017, when I assumed the role of club secretary, Nancy was very helpful to me as she shared many little hints about how to do the job.

Over the years, I volunteered a bit of my time at the TEC booth and we chatted during down times. One time, she began to tell me about one of her favorite rollers, **Vance Fowler** of the Cimeter Group, who I hadn’t heard of. She told me about how he pioneered the coin-operated penny press machine. Today, those coin-operated machines are everywhere and we all take them for granted when we visit our favorite tourist destinations. She also told me about how Vance didn’t “sign” his coins with initials but you could count the dot border carefully, as he always used the same number of dots and placed them the same way all the time.

Afterwards, I was surprised to receive an email from Nancy telling me that she had gone through one of her boxes and was sending me nine of Vance’s coins. She even sent me an Excel file listing all of Roy Fowler and Vance Fowler’s coins, their number and description. I was grateful that she would go to the trouble of sharing something that she valued with me, the new kid. This meant a lot to me then and I will treasure them always. I will remember Nancy every single time I look at those coins.”

Alex Mruk, TEC #4571: “Nancy was the club’s president when I first joined TEC. I came to know her warm and kind demeanor as we exchanged emails about the revised *Yesterday’s Elongateds* book and some history of the organization. She

was very patient and polite in answering a lot of my beginner questions which always stuck with me.”

Bob Leuver, TEC #1536-HM: “Nancy was a wonderful person, full of love and compassion.”

CURIOUS TRAVELER,

For one of the TEC election cycles, Nancy submitted this description of herself for her candidate’s bio: “What I like best about collecting elongated coins is that it gives me the incentive to visit new places and see new things with my family. Well, my family is mostly my husband now, but now and then my daughter joins us. Since John loves photography, we not only press coins when we visit a location, he takes pictures of the machine as well as the location. I don’t really have a favorite coin as such, but I do have a favorite producer. Vance Fowler, who could be called the father of the modern, self serve, coin machine is the person I look up to the most. His designs are beautiful, and are a cherished part of my collection.”

Asked about how others saw her elongated collecting, Nancy said, “I think some of them think I’m a bit obsessive, but they really don’t know the half of it.”

Perhaps above all in her elongated collecting interests, Nancy was a self-described “great fan of Disneyland,” which may have understated it just a bit. She had one of the most complete collections of Disneyland elongateds known.

Bob Hoff, TEC #2033 (aka Boomer, of parkpennies.com, the definitive website for Disneyland elongateds) said, “Nancy was what this hobby is all about. We miss her.”

Bob recalled meeting “The Wootens” as the family is often collectively referred to, at one of the early “list meets” and learning “we all had been sitting on the same Disneyland park benches for the fourth of July Disneyland parades and fireworks for years.”

Bob continued, “I was truly honored to have known Nancy. She was scary-smart, knowledgeable, competitive and fair. I rarely mention the passing of a fellow collector on the [parkpennies.com] website, but Nancy was such an *amazing* person and credit to the hobby, with so many friends that would want to know of her passing, I had to let the website readers know.”

THE LAST WORD

We leave the last word to Nancy. When asked about the biggest reward of her TEC jobs, she replied: “it’s the contact with other collectors. TEC members are the best! I love being able to communicate with them, and when I get the chance to meet them face to face — well, that’s the best reward anyone can have.”

Remembering Nancy

By Bob Fritsch, TEC #1871-LM, Cindy Calhoun, TEC #3467-LM, and Tyler Tyson, TEC #3262

I have many memories of **Nancy and John Wooten** during our long mutual involvement with TEC, but one item jumps out every time I think of them.

I forget which convention it was. Maybe San Francisco 2005, or Denver 2006, or Milwaukee, Baltimore or Los Angeles in succeeding years. I only remember that the room was huge and packed with enthusiastic members.

As usual, I was calling the auction. One item was highly desirable (don't ask me what it was), and bidding was spirited. At last, it came down to two bidders, each determined to make the item their own: John down front at the left side and Nancy back at the far right corner, bidding silently by raising their hands.

Deciding to have a little fun, I allowed the bidding to continue knowing that I would redo the lot. The last bid finally came, the lot was hammered, and I asked the two bidders, "Do you know who you were bidding against?"

The looks on their faces were priceless as the room dissolved into laughter.

"Let's do this again, shall we?," I asked and the lot was sold a second time at a substantially lower price.

We still get a chuckle from it to this day. Rest in peace, Nancy.

—Bob Fritsch

I remember Nancy for many things. Over the years we had great fun together at the shows. Early on when I was on the TEC Board, Nancy contacted me and asked if I would quickly take over a design that was delayed because **Brad Ream** was ill. It seems that we were in continuous contact after that!

After I had become the TEC VP, Nancy kept telling me I would take over for her as President, and I kept telling her she wasn't allowed to leave! In time, I gave in and agreed to run for TEC President. After the transfer of position, I'd get an occasional email from Nancy about something she just thought of that she may not have already shared with me. She was a wealth of knowledge and those 'info' emails went on for years. I remember us laughing about 3 years into my terms as President when she told me that she had been concerned because I did things differently than she did, but was happy that it all worked out fine!

Nancy and I frequently shared a laugh when together. She loved being at the shows, meeting members, and sharing her love of elongateds. When a business trip took my husband, Ed, and me to California, she and John met us and took us to the various tourist attractions in the area that had penny machines.

As most of us know, Nancy was a collector of Disney elongateds and often answered Disney related questions. She also had purchased some machines from **Vance and Roy Fowler** (including the one shown right) and had a lot of information on them. She shared the lists of the Fowler coins, ensuring the history of their elongateds remained available to newer collectors.

She will be missed.

—Cindy Calhoun

I've known Nancy and her family the entire time I've been involved

with TEC. Her passion and knowledge for elongateds was without question. This common interest in the 'die impressions' as she liked to call them, caused us to cross paths many times.

My first service on the TEC board as a governor (2007) would have never happened without Nancy, nor would have my return to the board in Denver, Colorado (2017). For many years she played a huge role in keeping the wheels of the club moving forward.

These last few years the elongated community has lost many great influencers. Nancy was another of them.

—Tyler Tyson



From the Editor

By Sandra E. Marxen, TEC #2127

Looking back through my emails archives recently, I was reminded that I first met **Nancy Wooten** in person at the ANA World's Fair of Money in Denver, Colorado, in 2006. That was about ten years after she and I joined TEC coincidentally around the same time and received member numbers just a few digits apart.

Even before joining TEC, though, we were on the same early email distribution list that was run by a California elongated collector named **Chris Aahz**. The internet, Web 1.0 as it's called now, was taking off for the general public, enabling wonderful discoveries — the dot.com bubble and crash aside, of course.

Amazon sold nothing but books. eBay was focused on used stuff and collectibles. I was still years away from owning a cell phone. My personal computer had a floppy drive and connected to the internet via a 14.4k baud modem, which emitted screeching noises that never failed to startle the cat. Static, text-only websites were the norm for even the most sophisticated business, and yet they were simple enough that almost anyone could make one for themselves.

Thankfully, lots of people did make their own websites and email distribution lists. I had no idea that anyone else actively collected elongateds. Until then, I didn't even know what they were called. Inspired, I took my meager collection out of the pencil tray and got serious.

I once told Nancy that I'd made my first trip to Disneyland in the early 1990s. I wasn't seriously collecting elongateds then, but I'd picked up a few before being thwarted by out-of-order machines. Living on the east coast, it wasn't likely I was going to return often enough to keep up my DL collection. And buying on eBay was hit or miss. Nancy immediately put me on her

list. Over the years, she sent me hundreds of elongateds from California and beyond. My early record keeping wasn't great. However, I can pinpoint her as the source of nearly all of my early Disneyland coins, including DL-0008 (shown).

COVID-19 update: Today, we stand at 11,767,541,617 vaccine doses administered with only 205,690,584 doses in the last 28 days. The

decline in vaccinations is concerning as it leaves room for more variants to develop. Subvariants have pushed us to over 549 million cases and 6,339,818 deaths worldwide.

As you venture out, please be careful. Thanks and happy collecting!



The deadline for the next TEC News (October-December) is Friday, September 9, 2022.

Please send articles, photos, and ads to editor@tecnews.org.

When sending articles, files from almost any text editor is acceptable (e.g., Word). Text in the body of an email message is also acceptable.

When sending photos, please send the highest resolution images you have. Almost any format is acceptable (e.g., jpg, gif, tif, png). Rather than embed your photos in the text, please send them as separate attachments.

When sending images of elongateds, please photograph or scan them with a white background. Thanks!

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