

## Tom Marshall's Weekly News, April 23, 2018

**Barbara Bush (1925-2018):** I wrote a full *Weekly News* story on the Northern Pacific Railway, but due to my inabilities with computer technology, it got erased somehow. Time has run out to redo that story for this week.

I had a conversation with the late Barbara Bush. It was in 1980 on the Market Street Mall in Wilmington. George was running for vice-president, and some Republican operatives had the Bushes under their wings in Delaware for a few hours.

Not directly related to the Bush couple's visit, a special event was being held on the Mall, and I had been asked to have one of my Stanleys on display in front of the Grand Opera House, just recently restored. No vehicular traffic was allowed on the Mall in 1980. I stood near the car for most of the time, usually answering questions.

George and Barbara Bush, accompanied by four or five others, came from the vicinity of the Grand Opera House and crossed the mall to the west side, disappearing into one of the buildings. In about five minutes, they retraced their steps at a leisurely pace. George nodded and said, "Nice car," but Barbara stopped and talked to me briefly, admiring our 1912 Model 87 that had a fairly new restoration. Then they were escorted on their way and out of sight.

Just as she was the first First Lady to have had a son become President of the United States since Abigail Adams (who died exactly 200 years ago), she also holds the distinction of being the only First Lady to speak to me. Thank you, Barbara.