

THE FOOT WARMER

Official Publication of the San Diego Region



www.sandiegoregion.aaca.com



TOM MCGILRAVY'S NEWLY ACQUIRED 1973 MUSTANG CONVERTIBLE FROM A CLUB MEMBER

March 2020

Volume 58

Issue 3

Silent Movie February, 2020 *by Tom McIlravy*

More than 40 members and friends attended the silent movie and car show on Feb 1 with more than a dozen vehicles being displayed. This was the largest attended of both members and vehicles at a silent movie. Among those present with their vehicles were **Daryl and Betty Holmes in their 1952 Chevrolet; Art and Phyllis Cottee in their 1965 Mustang; Doug and Marilyn Clements in their 1956 Chevrolet Bel Air; Al Smithson in his 1946 Packard Clipper, and guests driving his 1956 Packard 400; Tom McIlravy in his 1973 Mustang convertible; Mark and Diane Richards in their 1960 Thunderbird convertible; Al's invited guest TC Krentz from MCC Church, in her 1960 Rambler; Bob Gunthorp and Jeannette Hay in Bob's 1966 Mercedes 250 SE coupe; Larry and Paula Okey in their 1955 Buick Century; Rick Reinstein in his 1951 Chevrolet, Nannette Clark and Ken Munson and Bob Lasher and Bob Wagner in one of their many Mopars.** TOSSD President Rosemary was very gracious and appreciative in her acknowledgement of the region's attendance and participation in the car show.



Al Smithson and his two Packards



Richards', Thunderbird, Gunthorp's Mercedes, Okey's Buick and Holmes' Chevrolet



Janette Hay, Susan Woods and Nannette Clark



Tom McIlravy just can't figure out why his photos are always crooked.



Great to see the Chidgey's out and about!



Al Smithson always brings plenty of his "Special Popcorn" for the movies!



Above: Clements' Chevrolet and Cottee's Mustang.



Left: TC Krentz's 1960 Rambler...we need more guests to bring cars... this is a beauty

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

First I have to say it's good to be home, and I am back working on the Riley. I am making progress and was fortunate enough to find out that the San Diego Auto Museum has a 1932 Riley at their Restoration Facility, and I have made a couple of trips down there to get under their car to see how mine goes together, as mine was dismantled before I acquired it.

Congratulations are in order to John and Barbara Boyd on being invited to the AACA National Convention in Pennsylvania. I'm looking forward to seeing their trophy. Remember this road to this trophy started with John entering his car for our regional restoration awards.

Reading about Joe, Cathy and Eric Cibit's trip to Pebble Beach with their Austin Seven, brought back lots of memories for me. I was honored to be asked to be one of the Austin Seven Judges, a Yates, Phil Hill, and other giants of the Auto Industry. It was a weekend I will never forget.

By now the last Big 3 Swap Meet is history unless they can find a new location. I hope everyone was successful in their hunt for parts and any other goodies. I'm looking forward to hearing about any treasures that you were able to find at the swap meet.

Alex

The Antique Automobile Club of America is a non-profit, national organization founded in 1935 and dedicated to the preservation, maintenance, restoration, and enjoyment of Historical Vehicles

Antique Automobile Club of America National Membership Single or Joint \$40.00 per year.

Life Membership \$600.00

San Diego Region Membership Single or Joint \$25.00 per year.

Our San Diego Region Membership Chairman can help you obtain both memberships.

Contact: Mark Richards: richards.markr@yahoo.com
541.517.1393

Monthly Membership Meetings
1st Monday of each month
6:30 PM - Social 7:00 PM - Meeting
Joyce Beers Community Center In
Hillcrest on Vermont Street. Ample free
parking at Ralphs or Trader Joe's.

2020 Region Calendar

Dates subject to changes

MAR	2	General Membership Meeting
MAR	TBD	Region Tour Event
MAR	28	Silent Movie - Al Smithson 619.992.8729
APR	6	General Membership Meeting
APR	TBD	Old Town Bob Gunthorp 619.993.0184
APR	26	Coronado Motor Cars on Main Street
MAY	4	General Membership Meeting
MAY	TBD	Region Tour Event
MAY	TBD	Ladies Luncheon - Susan Woods 858.560.6899
JUN	1	General Membership Meeting
JUN	TBD	Region Tour Event
JUN	27	Bob Gunthorp Bar-B-Q Bob Gunthorp 619.993.0184
JULY	-	NO General Membership Meeting
JULY	4	Coronado July 4th Parade Al Smithson
AUG	3	General Membership Meeting
AUG	TBD	Chicken Fest Mike Cooke
AUG	15	San Diego HOT AUGUST NIGHT
SEP	7	General Membership Meeting
SEP	TBD	Mike Cooke
OCT	5	General Membership Meeting
OCT	TBD	Watt's Halloween Party Alex & Sandy Watt 619.223.6519
OCT	TBD	Silent Movie - Al Smithson 619.992.8729
NOV	2	General Membership Meeting
NOV	8	Annual Banquet Bob Gunthorp 619.993.0184
NOV	23	Silent Movie - Al Smithson 619.992.8729
NOV	TBD	Region Tour Event
DEC	7	General Membership Meeting
DEC	TBD	Bells of Freedom Bob Gunthorp 619.993.0184



President
 Alex Watt 2019 & 20
 714.273.9705

Vice President
 Tom McIlravy 2019 & 20
 760.429.6565

Secretary
 Susan Woods 2019 & 20

Treasurer
 Norma Almanza 2020 & 21
 512.619.8432

Directors at Large
 John Boyd 2020 & 2021
 619.448.9591
 Bob Gunthorp 2020 & 21
 619.993.0184
 Mark Richards 2020 & 21
 541.517.1393
 Ken Whited 2020 & 21
 619.977.9661
 Brad Zemcik 2019 & 20
 619.255.0059

Programs/Speakers
 Beth Kind 619.985.6718

Membership
 Mark Richards 514.517.1393

Tours
 Tom McIlravy 760.429.6565

Refreshments
 Diane Richards
 541.729.9124

Annual Banquet
 Bob Gunthorp 619.993.0184
 Susan Woods 858.560.6899

Annual Awards
 Alex Watt 714.273.9705
 Art Cottee 619.885.0704
 Royce Dunn 619.781.8339
 Daryl Holmes 619.840.0797
 Jack Heacock 760.390.4220

Coronado Parade
 Al Smithson 619.992.8729

ACCC Rep/Legislation
 Sheldon Jurist 858.279.8285

Club Photographers
 Bob Gunthorp 619.993.0184
 Betty Holmes 619.465.0797
 Tom McIlravy 760.429.6565

Editor
 Brad Zemcik 619.255.0059

Don't Forget Our Web Site

Our web site is now running smoothly and we are happy to announce that the new webmaster is **Mark Richards**. Our selection of items will grow with time so please be patient but check back regularly. You can access region information, photos from events, and copies of The Foot Warmer without a password. To obtain a password contact **Mark Richards** by email: richards.markr@yahoo.com

sandiegoregion.aaca.com



February refreshments including our region's 58th Anniversary Cake provided by **Sam and Deborah Judd** and **Tom McIlravy**

MARCH BIRTHDAYS	
Bette Hayward	4
Daryl Holmes	7
Catherine Woolsey	10
Evelyn McGill	16
Phyllis Cottee	27
Bob Lasher	30
Bill Verhulst	30
ANNIVERSARIES	
Barbara and John Boyd	16
Christine and Bud Hartwell	31

Thanks to those of you who have stepped up to provide refreshments at our meetings this year.

- March** - Marilyn Clements
- April** - Susan Woods and Barbara Foley
- May** - Rick Reinstein and Darren Farnesi
- June** - The Okey's and the Fort's
- July** - No Meeting
- August** - Phyllis Cottee and Betty Holmes
- September** - Al Smithson and the Dunn's
- October** - Shelia Jurist and Doc McAllister
- November** - Barbara and John Boyd
- December** - Beth Kind and Norma Almanza

2 cars FOR SALE



2 cars FOR SALE



First is a 1935 Pontiac two door Resto-mod. This car has been fully restored. The running gear and engine are 1999 Corvette, four wheel disc brakes, air conditioning, new holly carb. and much more to list here. - Asking \$39,000

Second is a 1936 Ford 2dr sedan with a nice restoration great for touring. Asking \$19,950

Interested parties call Ted Thieman 619.442.5465.

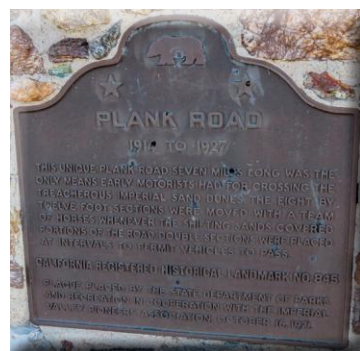


Plank Road *by Tom McIlravy*

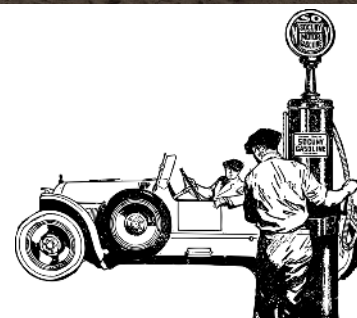
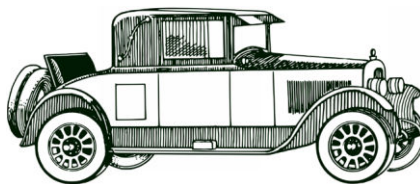
On a recent trip to Arizona with my sister Susan Christian, we had the privilege and opportunity to stop and look for the Plank Road on the sand dunes in the Imperial Valley located between El Centro, CA and Yuma AZ.

The map says to get off on Grays Wells Rd, and a little sign directs you back west about 2.5 miles. Off to the left you can see the remnants of what was once a 6½ mile stretch of road that was built in February 1915 and lasted until 1925 when the current highway was completed. Only 1,500 feet remain, preserved by the Imperial County Historical Society and the California Bureau of Land Management. There is a small section (replicated new) that you can drive your vehicle onto and take pictures. The area is a recreation area for dune buggies, so you can drive your vehicle near the fenced area of the road also to take pictures.

<https://sdautomuseum.org/exhibit/plank-road> is a link to the Auto Museum's article about the plank road. They have preserved a section of the road in the museum also.



Susan and Tom



Report: The 2020 AACA National Convention *By John Boyd*

A month ago I reported on the AACA 2019 Fall Western National Meet in Fallbrook, at which some of the San Diego Chapter member's cars won awards. Our 1936 DeSoto Airflow (on last month's cover) was one of these, winning a First Junior award, and also being chosen as a nominee for a National Award. We were notified a few weeks later that the car was selected for such an award, to be announced at the 2020 National Convention in Philadelphia. Barbara and I decided to attend. We flew to Philadelphia on February 6th



Our award - There are about four dozen national car awards, and some of them are given to more than one car. The Boyds' 1936 DeSoto was presented with the President's Cup Award (Western Division), presented to the "outstanding restoration of the year of a 1921 to 1942 car". The award is a huge trophy. The winners' names are added to the trophy, on display in the AACA Library or Headquarters. So you don't get to take it home. Instead, you get a smaller award, fairly easy to fit in your carry-on personal item. See the next photo, showing the President's Award in front of the First Junior award from Fallbrook. It's a substantial award, heavy. Possibly lead crystal!



Both of us were surprised and honored to win the President's Cup. We're now considering attending the Spring Nationals in Arizona to compete for a Senior award. It's 534 miles from El Cajon. And I probably would need to haul the car on a rented car trailer. But on the upside, there's a 5-day Founder's Tour organized by the Phoenix AACA chapter right afterward. It consists of several one-day out-and-back drives from Show Low to nearby sites and could be a lot of fun. Anyone else want to go?



Some impressions:

- * Attendees of the national convention are pretty fun people. Some are rather formal, but many appear to be plain folk that just enjoy their collector car and live within driving distance of Philadelphia. We talked to a Bantam collector, a few Model A and Model T fans, and some friends from the Airflow Club who were getting the same award we won, but for the Eastern Division, for their 1942 Chrysler business coupe.
- * The large membership in the eastern part of the US in AACA, compared to the West, was very apparent. During the banquet awards ceremony, cars, newsletters, and websites were recognized, with few chapters and cars from the West among them. I noted that AACA began in the East and spread only slowly westward. Moreover, restoration of old cars seems to be much more common in Pennsylvania and New Jersey than in California. Lots of restoration businesses are there. I wondered if this might be related to the weather seasons in the East: people tend to winterize their collector cars and park them for 9 months of the year. That leaves plenty of time to restore or maintain them, indoors, while outdoor options like golf and fishing aren't practical. In milder climates, we tend to drive our cars all year, and we expect them to run well. That might somewhat discourage many of us (but not all!) from restoration projects that leave a car undrivable for years. And we are busy outdoors as well.
- * That said, AACA is making serious effort to grow their 60,000 or so membership, including in the West. Several National folks were evident at Fallbrook, and they will be represented at the 2020 Spring Western National Meet in Show Low, Arizona.
- * Winter in the East is no more fun than I remember from our 10 years of living in Maryland.
- * AACA is pressing hard to raise the last \$2M needed for the \$10M new headquarters building at Hershey. I spoke to one chapter officer who told me his chapter has over \$5M in the bank, so the money is out there.

GENEROUS BOOK DONATION

These books were donated from the collection of Raymond E. Martin, a member of the AACA for many years in the 1990's and probably earlier. He was a lifelong member of the Model T Ford Club, from at least 1970 to 2002. He was also a member of the Model A Club, former Ranchero Club and several others. Ray amassed this book collection over many years before his passing in June 2002. His sons: Douglas Martin and Wayne Martin asked that the books be donated in his parents' names. Their mother, Barbara C. Martin was also a joint member in many of these clubs.

Those that were not selected by members were donated to the San Diego Automotive Museum.

Thank you, Douglas and Wayne, they are appreciated.

THE VAULT AND SECRET CAR CLUB - FEBRUARY 15, 2020

Coming off of Valentine's Day the day before, who would have thought we could still be smitten by beauty other than our wife's, husbands or significant others? It was like Cupid took a short nap, reloaded his quiver of arrows and met us at The Vault car storage facility. Upon entering it was "Oh, look at that one!", "Wow, what is that, it's beautiful!", etc.

This was a joint meet with the Rolls-Royce Owners' Club, San Diego Region and between the two clubs we had 50 people and a vast array of cars driven to the meet.

The visit to The Vault was set up by **Chris Erickson** of The Secret Car Club. Our host for the morning was **Brian Miller, CEO and Owner** of Veloce Motors - The Vault. After a brief explanation of how the facility works and how they have been expanding we were free to roam the floor and examine the cars. For a fee, people can store their cars in a secure, temperature regulated building where it is kept dusted on a frequent basis and kept ready for usage by the owner when they call. They can have a car off the floor in 10 minutes.

The Vault also provided coffee and morning treats to get the day started....along with all of the "eye candy"



Brian Miller, CEO and Owner explaining how the operation works. Listening: Peggy Spitz, Rick Reinstein and Doug Clements



Sheldon Jurist and Larry Okey

continued on back cover

From The Vault, we caravanned to the Fairbanks Ranch Country Club to be part of The Secret Car Club gathering that takes place every Saturday. This is a low-key gathering of car enthusiasts from all over San Diego and Orange County. The treat is never knowing what cars will show up. This time Antique Auto and the Rolls-Royce Owners' Club provided SPECTACULAR cars adding to the event's uniqueness.

Region members in attendance were: **Rick Reinstein** - 1951 Chevrolet Styleline coupe, **Sheldon and Sheila Jurist, Bob Gunthorp** - 1967 Mercedes-Benz 200D long wheelbase sedan "taxi", **Doc McAllister, Tom McIlravy** - 1973 Mustang convertible (cover car), **Norma Almanza** (rode with Tom), **Peggy and Charles Spitz** - 1981 Clenet roadster, **Doug Clements** 1956 Chevrolet Bel Air 2-dr hardtop, **Larry and Paula Okey** - 1955 Buick Century 2-dr hardtop, **Jack Heacock** - 1955 Mercury custom 2-dr sedan, **Bob Wagner and Bob Lasher** - 1983 Dodge 400 convertible, Sam and Deborah Judd, and **Brad and Michele Zemic** - 1957 Rolls-Royce Silver Cloud.



Inside The Vault.: *Left* - Jack Heacock drools examining the cars, *Right* - Just a sample of the main floor



Peggy and Charles Spitz's 1981 Clenet roadster



Doug Clements' 1956 Chevrolet Bel Air 2-dr hardtop



Rick Reinstein's 1951 Chevrolet Styleline coupe and **Larry and Paula Okey's 1955 Buick Century 2-dr hardtop**

Checking out a 1934 Bentley: Bob Wagner, Bob Lasher, Tom McIlravy and Norma Almanza



Bob Wagner and Bob Lasher's 1983 Dodge 400 convertible