



The Valley V's

San Fernando Valley Chapter 40

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: OUR March event of the grand opening of the Carriage Square Cinema theater premier showing of the movie THE STING was very successful even if the notices went out with such short notice. The evening was an enjoyable one as twelve EARLY V8s were there. I want to thank all of you who attended this event to make it a success. We met at the theater at 6:30 p.m. where we tied cardboard signs on our cars and proceeded to drive in a short parade through the city of Oxnard. We returned to the theater for hors d'oeuvres and champagne and to watch the film. As lead car in the short drive, I was honored to have as my passenger, actress Tippi Hedron, while my wife Mary rode in the back with the owner of the theater Robert Stiens. Another celebrity, Oxnard City Councilman Don Miller, was told he could ride in any one of the other old FORDS. He chose to ride in a nice restored 1937 Ford 4 door sedan owned by Pete Steed of Santa Barbara. The reason Mr. Miller picked the '37 to ride in was that his father had one like it years ago and he used to work on it. (Ed. There is always a FORD in one's past). Our PANCAKE BREAKFAST and ANTIQUE CAR SHOW is less than four weeks away. On April 27th we are going to need several volunteer teams of husband and wife (or what have you) to work at registration table, serving, parking cars, vote counting and cleaning up. If there was ever an event where everyone can help this one is it. So, I'm asking that everybody come out and pitch in. The proceeds will purchase a typewriter for the club.

RE-CAP of the VALLEY V8s MARCH 3rd MEETING: 'Twas a grand evening to be sure as we had the opportunity to view movies of the GRAND NATIONAL MEET of the EARLY FORD V8 CLUB which was held at Dearborn, Michigan. These excellent films were taken by JAY HARRIS and our chapter was privileged to have Jay and LEN BARBIERI of the SAN DIEGO REGIONAL GROUP bring the film to our meeting. The sight of the scores of the old FORD iron was tremendous. Jay's running account of what was in the film was very enlightening. Once again we had a GREAT TURNOUT of Ford people for the meeting. Nearly 40 fans of Ford were present. The raffle (now a regular high lite of each meeting) was a great success. Several of the items which were raffled off at the meeting were provided by CAL AUTO PARTS of Reseda. We thank them for their donations. We gave away the Ford desk lamp and who won

it??? LEN BARBIERI, the president of the SAN DIEGO group. Refreshments were provided by a couple of swell gals who are terribly concerned about your editor's shrinking waistline. MARY DURKEE brought a jelly roll and MARLENE NORDBERG brought an old fashioned apple spice cake. YUM YUM YUM! DON DURKEE, our resident sheetmetal man, gave an excellent presentation concerning metal work on those heavy guage fenders which grace our old Fords. Don brought a couple of fenders from his '40s and many of the tools which were used when metalmen were metalmen and lead was used and not BONDO. Don explained how you could work the metal and what tools to use for those particular areas involved.

***** NEW MEMBERS *****

OUR CHAPTER continues to grow with the addition of several new FORD ENTHUSIASTS to the roster. We extend a hearty welcome to BOB DRAKE of Woodland Hills. I'm sure that all of you have seen Bob's ads in the V8 TIMES. Perhaps you have seen some of Bob's excellent reproduction parts for early Fords. We will see more of these items in the future. We also welcome RALPH HUBBARD of Pasadena to our chapter. Ralph is also a member and officer of the Southern California Group. And a big welcome goes out to LEE ROY LIENEMANN of Oxnard. Lee Roy is the proud owner of a '39 Mercury coupe and a '39 Mercury convertible. We have a member who just joined from a very long distance away. A welcome to a Ford friend from across the country goes to Mr. GEORGE B. MARSHALL of BROOKLYN, NEW YORK. George is the owner of a '34 Ford Victoria and after some letter writing with us, he has mailed his '74 dues to our chapter.

***** CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP *****

For everyones information our paid up membership for 1974 numbers 39. As you know, we have had about 40 people attending the monthly meetings. Many are guests. Wouldn't it be GREAT if each member showed up at the April meeting with just one guest. That would be 78 Ford people!

FORDS ON TELEVISION***** REMEMBER WHEN-- a 1974 television movie about the wait at home for loved ones at war in 1943 was on the tube last week and was a great film for seeing some neat early iron. The main characters drove a 1940 Ford deluxe 4 door sedan with a badly cracked rear door window glass and cruised along at a tremendous speed of 15 mph to obtain the best gas mileage. (Should we all take note of that??). The drives down the town streets while going to church or to work at the defense plant panned by several '34s, '32s, As and even an old Chee vie or two. WASNOT THAT REET??

CONEJO VALLEY DAYS PARADE

Ted Martin has forwarded an entry form to me concerning the aforementioned event. This is an annual parade which is held in Thousand Oaks. The parade route is usually less than 2 miles long and we urge you to consider driving your early V8 in this event. It is a small community event that is a lot of fun and will give us needed exposure. (NO, I'm not talking about streaking) This entry form MUST be filled out and returned to the parade committee by APRIL 10th. It is very important that you decide by the coming meeting and then SEE ME --PAUL MESKE.

RECIPE TIME !!!!!!!

For those people who attended the March meeting, sampled the apple spice cake at the break, and were simply dying to obtain that recipe---- here it is, thanks to MARLENE NORDBERG.

OLE FASHIONED APPLE CAKE*****

Take one package of Duncan Hines SPICE CAKE mix.

One can (1 lb. 5 oz.) apple pie filling

Three eggs

Three tablespoons of water

1/2 cup chopped nuts

FOR THE TOPPING** You need--

1/2 cup sugar, 1/2 cup flour, 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon, and 1/4 cup (1/2 stick butter or margerine) softened.

Preheat the oven to 350. In a large bowl combine dry cake mix, pie filling, eggs, water, and nuts. Blend at low speed until completely moistened, about one minute. Beat two minutes at medium speed. Spread batter in a greased and floured pan- 13"X9"X2". For the TOPPING. In a medium bowl combine the sugar, flour, cinnamon, and softened butter with a fork. (mixture will be crumbly) Sprinkle evenly over the batter. Bake it at 350 for 40 to 45 minutes. Once this is done and the cake cools, sit down with a big spoon and eat it all up. OH, MY-- What did I say??

***** A DAY TO REMEMBER, BUT ONE YOU WANT TO FORGET ***** A TRAGEDY

Your editor was a first hand witness to a tragic event which occurred recently and greatly affected the plans of our past president, Doug Peterson. I will relate the story to you here. On March 10th there was a swapmeet held at the Pomona fairgrounds. Doug planned to take his 1934 Ford Victoria there as it was for sale. I had previously asked Doug if I could go along with him and would help out wherever I could. We had agreed to meet at Doug's house very early on that Sunday morning. Doug borrowed the car trailer from member Jack Miles and had the car ready and secured on the trailer by Saturday. On Sunday morning I was at Doug's at 6 o'clock am and we started out for Pomona. The drive was uneventful and the car with the trailer handled well on both surface streets and on the freeway. As we neared Pomona we missed the offramp which led to the swapmeet so Doug got off at the next offramp and we got back on the freeway. He drove off at the correct offramp and we proceeded down the road towards the fairgrounds. Suddenly, and without warning, there was a loud snap, a lurch, and Doug exclaimed, "there goes the car". Our speed was about 40 mph at the time. We pulled over and stopped and could only watch with dismay as the trailer, with the '34, rolled by. It was almost like slow motion to me. The trailer crossed three lanes of the road and seemed to gather speed. Off onto the shoulder it went and down into a water filled ditch. The trailer dug its tongue into the rain-softened embankment. And then, the comealongs popped which held the car to the trailer. The '34 continued on as momentum carried it from the trailer. The car went up on its side and almost over onto its top. We ran from the two car and saw that the front wishbone had come undone at the ball and had twisted the front axle 90 degrees, snapping the spring and perches. It was a disaster!

As it was only about 7:30 in the morning, the only people around were the early golfers on the course along the road. (No help from those guys!!) People who were headed for the swapmeet began to stop. Two fellows in a van stopped and with the truck and a rope, we managed to pull the trailer back up onto the shoulder of the road. An inspection of the trailer revealed it to be alright with only minor damage to the fender and some plywood. We then discovered the reason for losing the trailer--- the entire ball hitch had snapped from Doug's Pontiac. To then make everyone edgy, a Pomona police car pulled up and the officer enquired about what had happened. Doug exhibited, in my opinion, an amazing amount of patience and control. Had this been my car, etc. I would have been cursing a blue streak.

Nevertheless, the officer radioed for a tow truck to help get the '34 out of the ditch. It came in a while and, after some discussion about the best way to get the car out, winched the '34 up onto the shoulder of the road. Doug decided to fix the hitch so, leaving his son Doug jr. to watch the car, he and I drove to the swapmeet. He dropped me off and said he would return when the repairs were completed. I, in turn, went through the area looking for people I knew to ask if they would help put the car back on the trailer when Doug came back. In about two hours he was back with the trailer in tow. We rounded up Gordie Chamberlin, Bob Kennedy and Reggie Mayfield and went to where the car was still standing. We pushed that beast up onto the trailer and Doug fastened it down again. After this was done, we started out for home. While we were still there along the road, a fellow stopped and made Doug a fair offer for the car as it stood. At first Doug decided to accept and was going to deliver the car to the man. On our way home the trailer handled very poorly. It began to whip around when our speed reached 45 mph. Needless to say, I very quite nervous during the trip home, thinking about what happened to another member, Don Durkee and his mishap coming home from Santa Rosa in 1972. The ending to this tale is that we did make it back

to the valley. What a relief it was to be home! Now, the last I heard about the car is that Doug had decided to keep it and do a complete restoration of it. We should all wish this true FORD ENTHUSIAST good luck with his project.

COMING EVENTS *****

- April 7th- The monthly meeting of the Valley V8s- Northridge
- April 20th- A combined tour with the San Diego and So. Calif Regional Groups- See the attached flyer.
- April 27th- Pancake Breakfast and Antique Car Show at Tom Coward Ford in Oxnard.
- June 10th- SWAPMEET** sponsored by the Southern Calif. Group to be held at Southgate Park. This annual event is always a good one.
- June 29th and 30th- Nostalgia Fair Classic cars, and lots of good old stuff. Sponsored by the Van Nuys Jaycees
- May 26th- Forties Limited 6th annual pancake breakfast and car show at North Hollywood Park 7:30-11:30 a.m.
- Sept 20, 21, 22**** Western Regional Meet of the Early Ford V8 Club. To be held at the Bahia Hotel in San Diego.

PARTS FOR SALE or PARTS WANTED*****

WANTED- 42 Ford woody drivers door (or anything that fits in Ford/Merc thru '48) Call John Rile 213 393-9221 during the day.

HELP!!!!!! YOUR editor needs material for your newsletter. I have written everything in the letter for the past several months and my supply of items to write about has exhausted itself. PLEASE, if you have an item which could be developed into an interesting story, see me at the meeting.

ALMOST FORGOT ITEM** The cars and drivers who were at the movie of THE STING were:

1. '40 Ford Convert--Don Durkee
2. '34 Ford Phaeton--Elmer Swift
3. '37 Ford 4 door --Pete Steed
4. '36 Ford Cabriolet- Dr. Montique
5. '36 Ford 2 door --Bob Howell
6. '39 Ford Delx 2 dr.-Jack Miles
7. '38 Ford 4 door--Ralph Hubbard
8. '36 Ford Coupe --Bill Steed
9. '34 Ford 2 door-John Harrington
10. '39 Mercury coupe-LeeRoy Lienemann
11. '34 Ford Cabriolet-Don Dupree
12. '31 Ford pickup-Bob Mack

A photo of Doug's wrecked '34 was to appear here, but it wouldn't copy. (Ed.)



a p r i l t o u r

Our annual joint tour with the Southern California Regional Group will be completely different this year. We will eat breakfast at a new place, enjoy a new tour route, and picnic at a new (to most of us) place. The tour will be almost exactly 200 miles in length and thus will be held on a Saturday rather than a Sunday, considering the availability of gas. The date is the 20th of April. I ran the entire tour route on Washington's birthday and have arranged for a scenic route and stops to satisfy all interests, plus a nice picnic spot. If buying your lunch is your desire there is a nearby restaurant to fit your needs.

In past years we have traditionally attended the Antique Drags at the Orange County Raceway. I have been told that they will no longer be staging this event and so it was decided to embark on an entirely new joint tour. As mentioned above, there will be service stations open along the tour route. However, considering the long lines and accompanying delays experienced at trying to buy gas these days, it is strongly suggested that each participant take it upon himself to carry spare fuel or in some way arrange to make the trip so that a service station stop is not necessary. Due to the length of the tour it would be impractical to attempt to schedule in a regular service station stop.

Following is a brief outline of the meeting place, stops, and general agenda of the tour.

Saturday, April 20th - Meet at the May Co. parking lot in Fashion Valley at 7 AM. Tour leaves May Co. promptly at 7:30 AM.

Tour north on I-5 with one rest stop at rest area north of Oceanside.

9:30 a.m.
Approx ~~8:45~~ - Meet the Southern California RG at Toppers Restaurant in El Toro at the El Toro Rd off ramp. (This is a cafeteria style restaurant and we will have a private room for V-8ers).

After breakfast at Toppers we will tour south to La Paz, then take country roads thru very pretty Mission Viejo area to the Ortega Highway.

We will tour over the Ortega Highway to Lake Elsinore and then head south, stopping at the small town of Marietta where there is a very interesting antique shop. As I was looking things over there I found a very nice '38 speedometer on one of the shelves.

If time permits we will stop further on at Rancho California as their small shops are very interesting, especially to the female tourers. We expect to be in Fallbrook for a nice picnic at Live Oak Park by 1:30. The park has lots of tables and places set aside for horseshoes, volleyball, etc. If you wish to participate, bring along your own equipment. After the picnic the tour will go to Oceanside where we will intersect I-5 and bid our sister club farewell. Hope to see you all in April!!

PLAN TO ATTEND