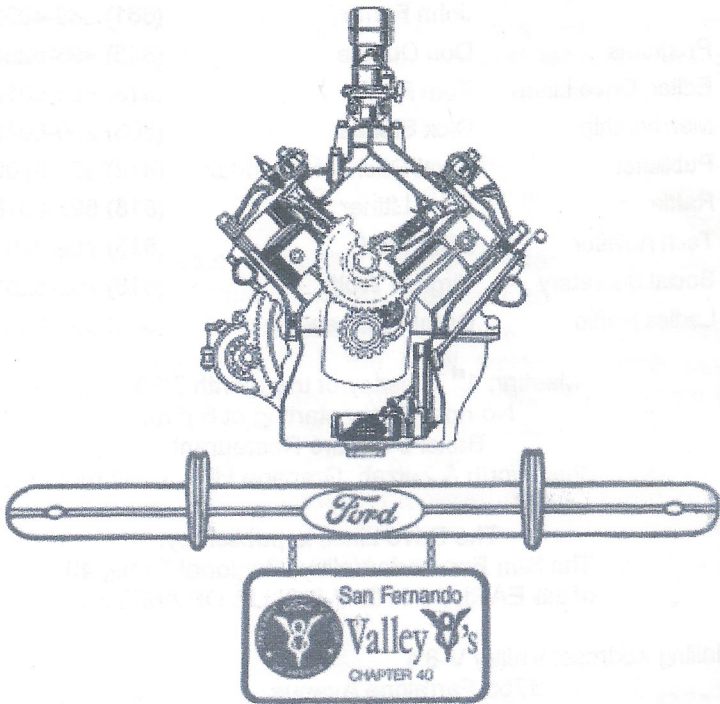




March 2003

"Our 33rd Year"



Drive Lines

# The Valley 's

## 2003 Officers

President	Joe DiFatta	(818) 700-1939
Vice President	Wendi Potter	(818) 884-8019
Secretary	Scott/Rachael Doudrick	(818) 957-5708
Treasurer	Ingvar Carlson	(818) 535-4046
Tours	Steve Boskovich	(818) 341-6876
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Editor, Drive Lines	Tom Potter	(818) 884-8019
Membership	Dick Stones	(805) 230-0070
Publisher	Scott/Rachael Doudrick	(818) 957-5708
Raffles	Jerry Littner	(818) 597-9016
Tech Advisor	John Wolf	(818) 789-6201
Social Secretary	Virginia Wolf	(818) 789-6201
Ladies Raffle	Carole Jensen	(805) 491-3355

Meeting 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month 7:30 p.m.  
No host dinner starting at 6 p.m.  
Baker's Square Restaurant  
Chatsworth & Zelzah, Granada Hills, California

The Drive Lines is published by:  
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of the EARLY FORD V-8 CLUB OF AMERICA

Mailing Address: Valley V-8's  
9755 Farralone Avenue  
Chatsworth, CA 91311

## ***President Joe's Message***

— MARCH 2003 —

I was complaining to someone about the vapor lock in my Ford after the JPL tour and a couple of days later, complaining about the noise from the differential in one of my other cars. Why me?? Then, Saturday, February 1<sup>st</sup> came the news that the Columbia had exploded 40 miles out in space – a huge tragedy. To the families of the astronauts, our deepest condolences.

Looking back at the JPL tour, where we saw computer screens and the robot unit moving in the test labs (JPL launches only unmanned shuttles), I was impressed with the high tech work. You can visualize what NASA goes through when a space ship is in outer space. My vapor lock and differential will be repaired someday. I am sure not going to complain about the small stuff again.

Thanks to Vice President Wendi Potter for handling the February meeting. Marcia's birthday was on February 4<sup>th</sup>.

I did get to Nick Alexander's car show and swapmeet. He sure does a great job inviting the local seven regional clubs in Southern California. There were about 20 of our members there. A couple members were selling parts in the swapmeet.

Nick has quite a collection of Woodies!! The BBQ lunch was enjoyed by all who stayed. The weather had been great for driving our classics. I sure enjoy driving my cars.

So next time we have a Ford event, just go for it...enjoy it all!

Joe

### **NEXT MEETING: March 4, 2003, 7:30 PM**

at Baker's Square, Zelzah and Chatsworth, Granada Hills. Come early and have dinner with V-8 friends. Bring your early Ford (unless it rains) and enjoy looking at the line up in the parking lot.

**DON'T FORGET TO GIVE YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES TO  
DICK STONES!**

## Exciting March 4th Meeting Program

Ever wanted to know more about the Ford Motor Co., and the true or partly true stories about the Ford Family? Come to our March 4 meeting to hear a great program by Steve Batesole. Steve draws on Lorin Sorenson's complete Fordiana Series and will share the most interesting parts of the six books as well as Ford and non-Ford publications by and about the Company. Features of the lives of the Fords, and company history are not to be missed!

Good background for the up-coming (June '03) Hundredth Anniversary of Ford...

## CALENDAR

### **LAUGHLIN, MAR 28 - 30**

#### **DEADLINE EXTENDED!**

The deadline for the Laughlin trip sign up has been extended according to Steve Boskovich. There are still a few places left on the bus, so please give Steve a call right away at (818) 341-6876 to reserve your space. The trip includes two nights at the Colorado Belle and a lot of fun between here and there!

APRIL 24 - 27 The Blackwell Tour to Gilroy, Bonfante Gardens, Brookdale Lodge. Contact Gerry Blackwell (661) 268-0040

May 4 The Fort Tejon and wild flower tour. Call Steve Boskovich (818) 341-6876

June (tba) Paradise Cove Brunch Tour. Meet at Woodley Park. Call Joe DiFatta (818) 700-1939.

July 12 - 13 Solvang tour. The first 20 couples to sign up will be accommodated. Over night at the Royal Copenhagen Hotel. Call Joe DiFatta (818) 700-1939.

## January Tour, JPL / NASA At Its Best

The day dawned bright and clear, Eight flathead V8's and numerous modern cars rolled from Woodly Park at 8:15 sharp on their way to JPL. The traffic was light and the rolling hills and green mountains along the 210 Fwy led us onward. Other cars from the Ventura group and other V8'ers from the Valley joined us at the JPL facility below the green San Gabriel Mountains to start our well-organized tour.

After a brief orientation, we entered the Von Karman Museum of Space Travel. The displays and a movie on the history of planetary exploration were winners. While some of the information was over our heads, most of what we heard and saw was very understandable and drew us into the excitement of practical science at its cutting edge.



President Joe DiFatta and Marsha with 9 year old Josh Shubb, Judy Shubb's grandson, taking in the sight and sound of the Von Karman Museum at JPL. The videos and the displays of the Solar System were dramatic and very informative. The Museum helped us get oriented for the tour of the Lab to follow.

We were then divided into three groups and under the leadership of our well-informed guides, all JPL employees, proceeded to the three locations where "the real work is accomplished." At the Mars Exploration Rover (MER) assembly test and launch operation, we viewed from an over head gallery, actual components being assembled in a huge "clean room" where many tests were in progress. We saw instruments that will be going into space in May and again in June such as a periscope like camera, which was being put through its paces as we watched.



Craig Lapair shows a model of an aluminum alloy wheel that may be used on the Mars Explorer. The unusual "spoke" design helps the wheel to have a shock absorbing quality as well as strength and light weight.

Our next stop was at the MER test beds where exploration Rovers are given a practical work out. The large room is a "Martian landscape" but without as much dust as will actually be found on the red planet. The Rovers are programmed to drive around larger rocks (turning radius ~ 4 ft) and over small ones. They are simply told to go from "A" to "B". Since it takes several minutes, at the speed of light, to send and receive commands from Earth, the rovers must be pre-programmed to make "drive around" decisions on their own. One of our party, Joey Nitz, Leon Nitz' grandson, was asked to lie down "on Mars" as a small

model Rover climbed over his body and successfully navigated the "obstacle." By the way, this particular 11 year old was one of

Wendi's 5<sup>th</sup> grade students last year at Welby Way Elementary. His comment, when asked how it felt



Joey Nitz on the floor at JPL being "run over" by a model of the Mars Rover

having the vehicle drive over him, "Not good." We are happy to report that his health is still sound. No bone crushing was reported.

Another stop was the Space Flight Operations Center, which is being renovated for the launch. The Mars bound rover will actually be controlled from here once launch from Cape Canaveral is successful. We often see the Houston Control Center in action on TV. But "Pasadena", which looks similar, is right here in the neighborhood! It just doesn't sound right though. Can you hear Tom Hanks as Jim Lovell saying, "Pasadena, we've had a problem!?" Well, this is unmanned space travel so were not going to hear that one.



Scott and Rachael Doudrick in the JPL parking lot were presented a picture of a '39 Ford pick up by Treasurer Ingvar Carlson. We understand that their truck will look exactly like this when they complete it.

After 2 1/2 fascinating hours, we were ready for lunch. We converged on several restaurants in the community of Montrose, notably the "Black Cow" and "The Star". Excellent food and good company! Our final stop was at the home of Scott and Rachael to view the beginnings of a frame-off restoration of his '39 Ford Pick-up. As a sign in Scott's home says, "There are no road blocks in life, only challenges". Coffee and dessert in their kitchen and a great performance by their Spaniel, Molly, in the backyard put the finishing touches on our first tour of 2003.

*This one will be hard to beat. Scott and Rachael are to be commended on their complex and excellent tour. We now have a*

far greater understanding of our interplanetary space program. The JPL location has, in many ways, the feeling of a college campus complete with large buildings and all the labs and offices to house a staff of over 5,000 scientists and support personnel. Of course, what we learn in space has countless applications here on Earth. JPL gives us a chance to turn dreams of practical unmanned space travel into reality. I'm sure it's a pressure cooker, but what a fun one! TP

## FEBRUARY TOUR: NICK ALEXANDER'S

On February 1, at least twelve Valley V-8 cars and 20 members went to Nick Alexander's BMW dealership for the Third Annual Flat Head V-8 Car Show, Swap Meet and BBQ. There



Tech Advisor John Wolf's '40 pickup. He tells us that he bought it from a used car dealer on Ventura Boulevard about five years ago. It was a mess mechanically, but the body was great. It turns out that Don Durkee did the bodywork on it before it was purchased. At the time, John didn't know that Don had worked on the truck at all. Small world!



were over 50 cars present from all over Southern California. Some were for sale, which included a completely restored woody for which \$100,000 was turned down. There were "basket cases" that you may have been able to buy for \$2500 if you were desperate.

The sale and swap meet offered buyers a wide variety of flathead Ford parts, new and not so new for V-8s. Our members were selling and seemed to be doing well in moving the usual and unusual items they offered. Included in the meet was a complete dashboard gage set for a '46 Super Deluxe, Ford Script tool kits in good and not so good condition and, as Wendi says, "some unidentifiable rusty pieces of something."



Dick Stones with his "you see it coming" bright red '50 Custom Club Coupe. It's one sharp restoration and, Dick tells us, it really goes.

Nick Alexander treats us all very well indeed. His dealership allows us to use all but the show room for this annual activity, which included a delicious BBQ and a trip in a van to his restoration facilities. They have been moved from the dealership to a few blocks way where they had room to expand. The Shop

now consists of two separate buildings both large enough for several cars. One building is dedicated to wood restoration and the other to mechanical work. The wood restoration side was by far the most unique. His employees showed us where they had doveled and wood-grained holes in doors, where they had painstakingly used lacquer thinner and putty knives to separate the plies from panels in order to reuse the wood. It was amazing the skill and care these people brought to their jobs!

This event was a time for socializing, including car talk with friends some of whom we had not seen since last year's event. Naturally, there is always a chance to meet new V-8ers and talk about their cars and interests.

Meeting in this relaxed atmosphere with club members is fun. There is time to hear the new stories about V-8s and listen to how the old stories have changed since we heard them last. We do have more time and less pressure, which makes the pleasant atmosphere more enjoyable.

We owe a big thanks to Nick and his competent staff for the opportunity to get together and enjoy his fabulous collection of completely restored Woody's. It includes almost every year of Ford and Mercury woody, from 1932 through 1951, the last year woodies (with wood not wood graining on metal) were made by Ford. Of special note were the presence of Sportsman convertibles, those rare and very valuable status symbols that were top of the line cars fifty five years ago, and they still sell for far more than other cars in their time frame except, of course, the beautiful Chrysler Town and Countrys of the same period

It is fun to drive home from such an event and enjoy the focus on so many cars and people who share your interests and the values that make this hobby so enjoyable.

## Editor's Grille



**"Reminisce" Magazine wants to know: Can you name that car?**

The editors show the car above and challenge readers of Reminisce to "NAME THAT CAR". The clues given are:

- The car began life in 1939 as another model of the Ford Motor Co.
- Six years later it would be part of a separate division, along with another popular marquee.
- The car is named for the wing-footed messenger of the Roman Gods.
- The car is powered by a 239 cu.in. 100 horsepower L head V-8.
- The car isn't much different than the pre-WWII model. There is big change coming up about two years after this car was built.

While "Reminisce" is not a magazine for car people at all, I think it's a pretty good description for non-car types! One of the quotes found in the magazine above the Table of Contents describes the magazine well. "Nostalgia is like a grammar lesson... you find the present tense and the past perfect."

Of course you all know what the car is. You got that in the first second of looking. Right? If not, please take a recognition lesson from Mike Ewing (similar front end details), and Chuck Luetzgerodt

for (similar) back end details. These guys know their cars up close and very personal. They did it themselves!

*Thanks go to President Joe who gave this article to DL. I clicked in right away because I drove my Dad's version of this car to high school. It was maroon and had no white walls. Did cars even have whites in those days? I get the impression that after the War, you just couldn't get them, even on a factory order. Anyway, you know the story - I had to keep the wood sanded and varnished or I didn't drive it. Period. I was 16-17. "Come on Dad!" He knew that there was a drivable 85 HP '37 five window sitting behind the garage. But I got a lot of attention from girls in the woody. The '37 was a 15-year-old junker from my point of view. Looking back, the '37 was really a pretty good car and much faster than the big Merc. Boy, have things changed! Guess what? I did a lot of sanding and varnishing! TP*

### Birthdays in March

3rd	Steve Sadd	21st	Dennis Keene
15th	Bob Reed	25th	Dick Stones
17th	Paula Ewing	25th	Kent Lowry
18th	Ed Warnock	26th	Minerva Colberg
18th	Ruth Mottern	30th	Ruth Thompson
20th	Lucy Coppia		

### WANTED, FOR SALE or TRADE

FOR SALE: '49 - '53 Mercury short block, as new. Jack Miles (818) 347-8617

FOR SALE: '83 LINCOLN CONTINENTAL 4 DOOR SEDAN. White with gold velour interior. Sun roof, air, full power. All working order. Engine, transmission sound. No rust or dents. Asking \$3000 OBO. Nino Rosso (323) 877-2314.

FOR SALE: '48 Ford Super Deluxe coupe. Black. Excellent condition. Columbia, tube shocks, correct plates. Extra parts: transmission and complete front axle. First \$15,000 takes it all. Cliff Vess (818) 368-3123.

# Saturday, July 12, 2003

## Overnight Tour to Solvang



- ❖ Theater Show - "Crazy for You" a musical and dance extravaganza
- ❖ Saturday Noon - BBO Hot Dog Lunch (Nojaque Park)
- ❖ Shopping in Solvang
- ❖ Stay at the Royal Copenhagen Motel - 2 blocks from the theater - Sunday, Continental Breakfast
- ❖ After show, hospitality at motel

\$25.00 per person - check made out to:

Valley V8's Ford Club

Mail to Joe DiFatta

Only 40 tickets available.

For details and phone number

to the Royal Copenhagen,

call Joe DiFatta at

(818) 700-1079.

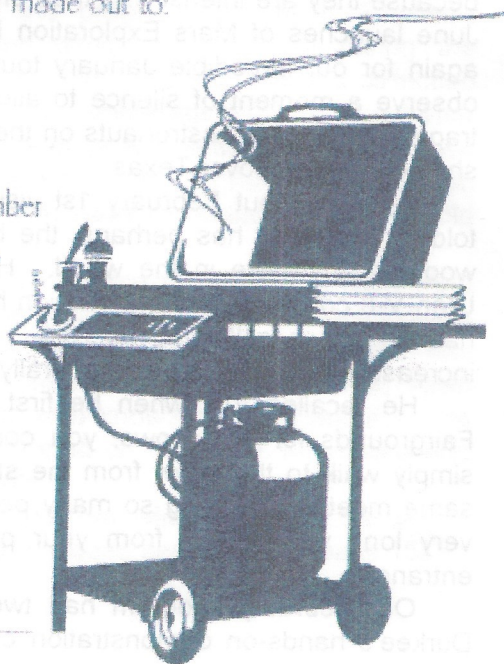
Rooms are \$105.00

plus tax for the night.

Call me soon, otherwise

we will open this event

up to others!



## The February Meeting

The "Valley V-8 Room" at Baker's Square was packed on February 4. Perhaps, we should make a name plaque to hang over the door and ask them to expand "our half" of the restaurant to accommodate the growing number of Valley V8 members attending on the first Tuesday of the month. On second thought, that would make the parking lot smaller and we need that room for our Early Fords which park right outside those big windows where we can admire them. Hmmmm.....

As President Joe was on an excused absence (we heard that it was Marsha's birthday, but how could that be? She just keeps getting younger!), Vice President Wendi was running things which went smoothly, even though the joke about the frog, Kermit Jagger, was insensitive to those who are green. There is no truth to the rumor that everyone present signed a petition to vote President Joe out and make Wendi the new pres.

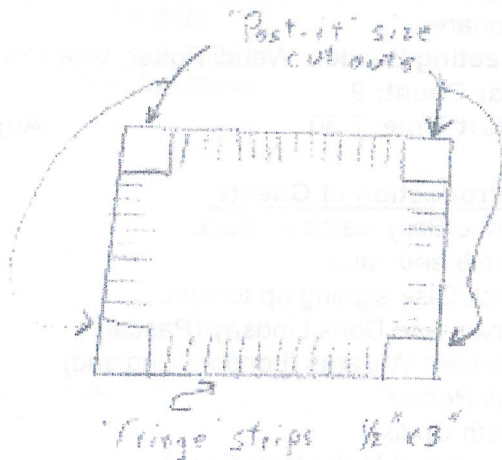
Scott Doudrick shared that tours of JPL will cease soon because they are intensifying their preparation for the May and the June launches of Mars Exploration Rovers. After thanking Scott again for our incredible January tour of JPL, Wendi asked us to observe a moment of silence to allow members to reflect on the tragic loss of seven astronauts on the February 1st break up of the shuttle Columbia over Texas.

Regarding our February 1st visit to Nick Alexander's, Blacky told us that Nick has perhaps, the biggest and best collection of woodies anywhere in the world. He offered that Ron Thorn, a Utah V-8 collector, said that though he had many woodies, no one had as fine a collection as Nick. Early Ford activity is on the increase as is car collecting generally according to Larry Caplan.

He recalled that when he first started going to the Turlock Fairgrounds for car shows, you could drive up to the gate and simply walk to the show from the street. Now, he says, that the same meet is attracting so many people, that you have to walk a very long way to get from your parked car to the fairgrounds entrance.

Our February Program had two parts. The first was Mary Durkee's hands-on demonstration of how to make a quilt in less

than two hours without sewing. She brought in a quilt that was partly completed. First the material is folded in half. Then you cut a "Post-it" (3" X 3") sized square from each corner. Then cut into all sides about three inches making half-inch wide strips. You end up with strips ("fringe") that you use to tie the two halves together. Her sample, a beautiful blue material with a car and plane print design, was given to the club to be auctioned off at our May meeting. That one will bring a high



price! Interesting way to make a "keep-warm-in-winter" blanket and a generous gift to the club. Thank you Mary!

Since Valentine's Day is upon us as we write this, it seemed fitting that the next part of the program was Allan Franklin's display of Valentines showing what was available during the Model T era to send to a loved one. His and Elaine's collection are framed for safe keeping to minimize aging. This is a better idea than the old shoebox for all of us who wish to preserve those cherished cards from the past. Hey! Joe and Marsha have been together for 42 years! Maybe they have some old cards that could be framed!

Then Allan showed us an old device for setting up Early Ford V-8 distributors. This simple plate-like device accommodates distributors with two or three mounting screws. Since the tool came with no literature or a name of the manufacturer, Allan would like to hear from anyone who knows anything about it. He can see the letters N T-6D stamped on the plate. Interesting and fun to collect samples of old tools.

Congratulations to Chuck Mair for winning Car of the Month with his '41 Ford business coupe (please see article on page 15).

## From The Right Seat

**Date:** February 03, 2003  
**Square**

**Meeting Place:** Baker's

**Meeting Leader:** Wendi Potter, Vice-President

**Car Count:** 9

**Adjournment Time:** 8:45

### Introduction of Guests:

Ernie Baily welcome back

Ernie and Janie

Dick Gise signing up tonight

Arwin and Doris Lindsay (Pascal)

Richard Williams (London, England)

Bill Hetton

Seth Updike

Vince and Nick (Jerry Case)

Bob and Mary Brazil

Mary Jane and Randy Watson Welcome back

### President's Notes: Wendi Potter

Thanks for great Drive Lines

Great tour of JPL, hardware leaves next week

A moment of silence for the Columbia astronauts.

Nick Alexander's a great turnout, many members were attending

Welcome to returning members and those we have not seen for a while. Pascals are here this evening.

Thank you Dick Colarossi for all of the great raffle donations.



Dick Colarossi

**C Q AUTO PARTS INC.**

We Specialize in Service

21116 Devonshire St  
Chatsworth, CA 91311

Telephone  
818 341-3121



**Treasurer's Report: Wendi for Ingvar**

The Treasury is looking good and growing!

**Membership: Dick Stones**

We are still missing some checks for dues. We would sure like to get them soon, before we have to start calling...

**Upcoming Tours: Wendi and tom for Steve**

Solvang....we still have 5 places left

Fort Tajon May sign up sheet went around Details

10<sup>th</sup> of this month is the deadline for Laughlin sign up.

**Announcements:**

Blacky talked about Nick Alexander

Larry Caplan talked about Turlock

A surprise guest told the "bad biker joke"

**Car of the Month:**

Chuck Mair's 1941 "blushing" Coupe

**Program for the Evening:**

See article in this Drive Lines

**Raffle Winners:**

**Ladies:** Judy Schubb, Carole Jensen

**Name Badge:** Rose Gott

**50/50 Drawing:** Dick Stones

Minutes submitted by Rachael Doudrick

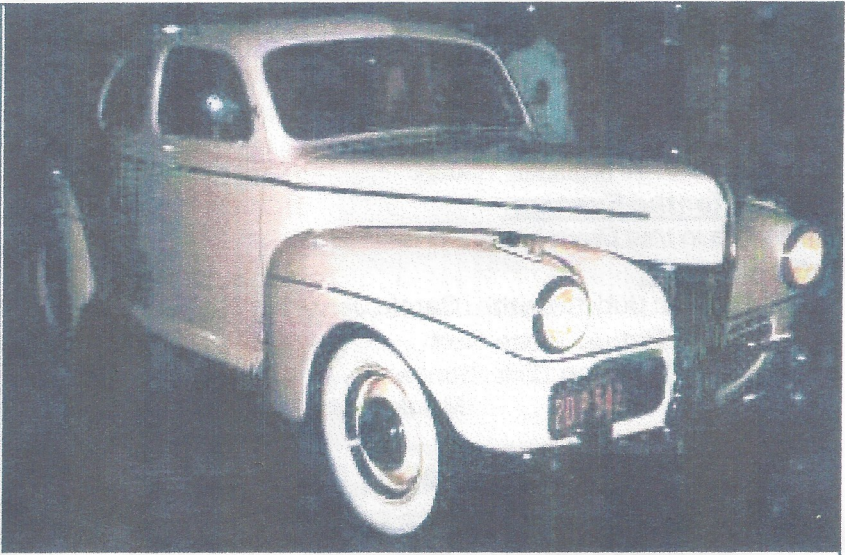
## CAR OF THE MONTH, MARCH, 2003

I purchased my '41 Ford Special coupe about 35 years ago. The previous owner was very pleased with the work he did on the car. He wood grained the dash, which made me want to throw up. He painted the wheels with a brush and wrecked the beauty rings trying to pound them back on after the "paint job." Then he used house wire to replace some of the wire looms. My work was cut out for me!

You guys may not understand it, but I had to work on the car for three years before I would even show it to my late wife. The body brazing and painting cost \$350. The upholstery and interior cardboard ran another \$500. But it was worthwhile. It has been on a lot of tours including a Jay Harris trip to Canada and it has always brought me home safely.

Jay Leno and several Rolls Royce owners have given me thumbs up when they see me driving my Ford coupe. My late wife never could figure out why people driving expensive cars would do that. Whatever the reason, it sure is fun when my early Ford V-8 gets its share of attention.

I want to thank Jack Miles for a great running flathead. Jerry Case has made the headlights the brightest. Richard Valleroy did the directional signals, which I consider an important safety feature.



Car of the Month: Chuck Mair's '41 business coupe. These headlights are brighter than most 6-volt units. Chuck is a stickler for getting those ground connections as clean as possible. Beautiful car Chuck!

I also want to thank the committee who voted my '41 the "Car of the Month." Finally, I want to thank everyone for their friendship and all who have served as officers of the great Valley V-8 club. Chuck Mair

*Thanks Chuck for sharing the history of your great '41 coupe.  
All the best to you. TP*

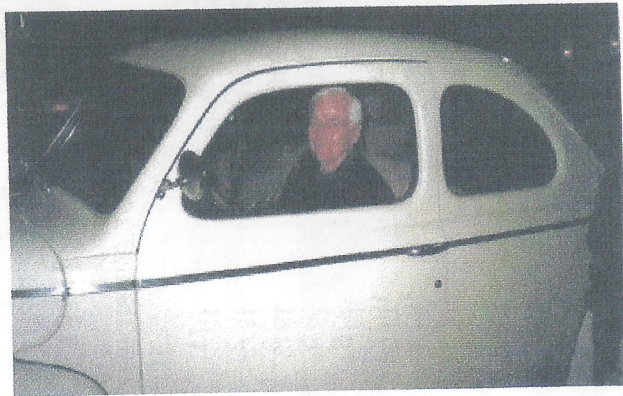
# The Valley's

## PAST PRESIDENTS

Jim Rowe	1971
Doug Peterson	1972
Don Durkee	1973 - 1974
Ed Warnock	1975
John Busk	1976
Chip Werstein	1977
Stan Misraje	1978
Bill Culp	1979
Al Spencer	1980
Larry Caplan	1981
Bob Rose	1982
Don Durkee	1983
Paul Kirk	1984
Kent Lowry	1985
Dave Sanborn	1986
John Kemmerer	1987
Dudley Ochsner	1988
Jerry Jensen	1989 - 1990
Joe DiFatta	1991
Chuck Shubb	1992 - 1993
George Richards	1994
Jerry Littner	1995
Dick Smith	1996
Chuck Mair	1997
Dennis Keene	1998
Rose Gott	1999
Don Stout	2000
Steve Boskovich	2001 -2002

# The Valley 's

9755 Farralone Avenue \_ Chatsworth, CA 91311



**Chuck Mair's '41 Business Coupe  
Car of the Month**

