



## LA on Fire



A Good Friend, GAYLE PEPPER, who lives in the mountains 10 miles north of LA , caught this shot:

The Wind Blown Fires raced through LA only a month ago. Entire neighborhoods are gone .  
55,000 people evacuated. Thousands of Cars & Homes lost. Insurance losses could reach \$ 50 Billion..  
Fires are still popping up around San Diego and The Mexican Border.  
This week's rain, hopefully, will stop the madness.

Happy March V8ers!

Finally, the brutal San Diego winter is coming to a close! Soon we will be able to remove the snow tires from our old Fords. The days are getting longer to allow for more daylight driving of our cars!

The return of the ***Fabulous All-Ford Picnic*** is scheduled for Saturday, June 21 at Santee Lakes Park. June 21 is also designated by the National Early Ford V-8 Club as "National Drive Your V-8 Day". The picnic will be another great Club get-together. Once again, we will need members to help provide raffle prizes and to volunteer to help prepare for and support the event during the picnic. I will be sending out, in a later email, a volunteer sign-up sheet to give you an opportunity to select how to help.

There is a registration form that everyone that plans to attend the picnic should complete. Again, there is no charge for you to attend the picnic. Then why are you asked to complete a registration form for the event? Good question! The reason is because the All-Ford Picnic was put on the San Diego Association of Car Clubs (SDACC) calendar of events. Why did we do that? Good question! Our picnic was put on the SDACC website so the June 21 date is now reserved for our Club, from the SDACC perspective, and no other events that would conflict with our event will be listed on that date. So why the registration form? Now that the Picnic is on the SDACC website it is possible that a significant number of folks outside of our Club may attend the picnic. The registration form will allow us to determine how many people will attend the picnic and to better estimate the provisions our Club should purchase (e.g., hot dogs, hamburgers). It will take Club members to make this picnic another success, and I am looking forward to it!

Do not forget, the Club Breakfast is on March 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am at the Broken Yolk in Mission Valley and the Club meeting is on March 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.

If there are any March tours or events, notification will be sent to you via email.

Stay Happy and Healthy! Have a happy Saint Patrick's Day!!

That is all for this month. Now get out there and drive that old V-8! Cheers!

Joe V



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Ray was feeling better and joined in.

V8ers Dorrs, Shortts, Dows, Brocks, Pettermans and Ray's Daughter Wendy and husband Rich all met up at the Mandarin Wok Restaurant in Claremont. Where We celebrated the

### Year of the Snake

Bill and Sue Dorr shopped for appropriate jewelry to wear and handed out Snake Rings, Snake bracelets and Horoscopes and then, when the girls posed for a photo, they all showed me their Snake Ring.





My career was right here-NY Mid Town, 4 Ad Agencies plus free lance for 35 great years. It was a lot of fun! !



Itailinate 3 story, built in 1740. Only 5 owners over 300 yrs.

New York Westchester County. Bought this 300 yr old 3 story house on one acre. Near the Hudson River, 10 mi North of NY City. Easy Train commute. Room for Big Parties and 12 old cars at a time. Our kids, age 2 & 5 grew up there. Best place ever.



After 35 years sold to new family with two kids, age 2 & 5. (New memories starting all over.)

We then followed our kids to our Coronado house near the Beach.





Hey! It's raining out Here!

Dispite the weather, fourteen damp and hungry V8ers showed up ready to Talk and Eat. Or Eat while Talking...

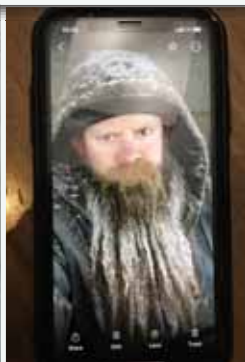
Everybody was in a good mood... especially Candy Green who came in last, ready to talk. I was the lucky one next to her, so I got an earfull. Did you know Candy is a MAD MAX Movie Fan? She fired up her phone pics and gave me a show of crazy Mad Max trucks and family members in Mad Max getups. They all live out of town...way outta town. Candy visits often..



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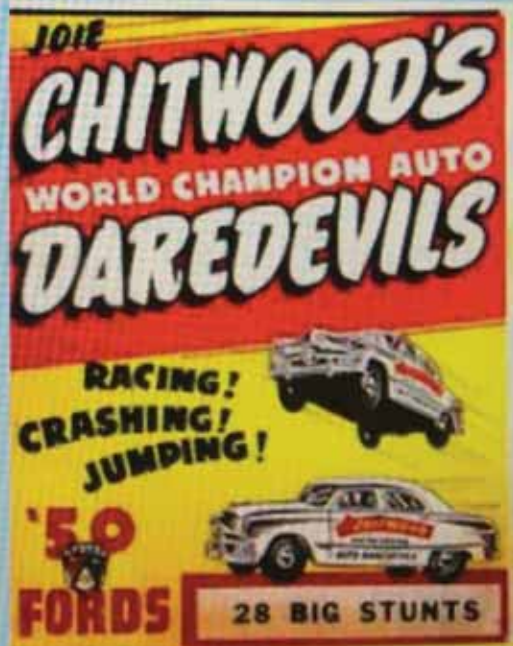


MAD MAX CANDY- WHO KNEW?



I remember the Thrill Rides and Destruction Derbies at Balboa Stadium in the 50's.

As much as I liked all the crashes, I saw the cars before the damage and thought I could make money on them. So I started searching out any old car- Clean it up and make a few bucks on resale. I ran ads in the Tribune—"Runs good and it's Cheap" Mostly Sailors would come by bus, cash in hand. That became a job for my teen age years...and continued up to 12 Cars at a time, as an adult while in NY..



## Joie Chitwood's Thrill Show

### The Ford V-8 Years

By John Emmering

The large crowd of spectators gathered at Chicago's Soldier Field for the 1948 Cook County fair, collectively held their breath as the white 1949 Ford approached the wooden ramp after rounding the stadium. Attaining the jump speed of 42 MPH the Ford climbed the ramp and then flew off the edge flying 50 feet and over another 1949 Ford passing by underneath, until it came down safely on the ramp on the opposite side. Thus began the partnership between Joie Chitwood and the original auto daredevils and the Ford Motor Company which began with that performance and lasted through 1953.

Founder of the thrill show, race driver Joie Chitwood was actually born George Chitwood. In a turn of fate a publicist forgot Chitwood's first name when writing about his surprise third place finish in an Indiana auto race and intended to insert the name Joe. A typographical error rendered it "Joie" in the news piece and the name Joie stuck. Joie was later billed as "Chief Wahoo" a full blooded Cherokee Indian, however this was a show business invention, as he had no native American heritage.

Establishing himself as an exceptional racer, Joie won several Sprint car championships and raced in seven Indianapolis 500s, two prior to World War II and five after, winning fifth place three times. Joie was the first driver to wear a seat belt in the Indianapolis 500, before they were technically allowed. The seat belt was not worn for safety but helped Joie to keep his foot on the gas pedal despite the

In 1943 Joie's first thrill show, "Joie Chitwood's Hell Drivers" was established when Joie bought Lucky Teeters Thrill Show after Lucky had been killed performing a jump. World War II regulations had suspended auto racing, but auto thrill shows were not prohibited. Joie entered this field and strove to establish the best auto thrill show in the business. Joie perfected and improved Teeter's four main stunts, the rollover, the T-bone crash, the dive bomber, and the ramp to ramp jump. The show reached a new high standard as Joie employed only top notch drivers. His two hour auto thrill shows eventually included 28 events.



plate welded to the rear undercarriage of the jump cars, and gas tanks were placed in the trunk as a precaution against fire. An extra light was added to the dashboard to improve the driver's view of the speedometer, as a jump car had to hit 42 mph exactly, before leaving the ramp.



Clark Gable portrayed Mike Brannan, Midget Racer turned Stunt Driver for Joie Chitwood



Audiences at county and state fairs soon thrilled to the daring stunts of the new Ford V-8s and witnessed some older Fords getting some very harsh treatment as crash cars. Soon there were five units touring the country each with 10 to 12 brand new Ford cars, two motorcycles, a clown car and 14 to 17 workers. Joie personally performed stunts, often opening his show by executing his famous ramp jump. In order to appear in as many shows as possible Joie would sometimes have a pilot fly over a stadium where one of his thrill shows was taking place and drop him in the middle of the stadium by parachute, a grand entrance.

The fame of the Chitwood thrill show grew and early in 1950 Joie got a call from MGM studios. Film director Clarence Brown wanted to feature Joie Chitwood's Thrill Show in a movie called *To Please a Lady* starring Clark Gable and Barbara Stanwyck. In the film Gable played a race driver who, after being banned from midget racing joins Chitwood's driving crew. MGM built a fairground on one of their lots and 15 days of filming began, resulting in a seven and one-half minute scene featuring some great 1949 and 1950 Ford V-8 cars in action performing thrilling stunts. The film is currently available on DVD.

Unfortunately the five year partnership between Chitwood and Ford Motor Company ended in 1953 after problems erupted with the corporation managing the Chitwood show. The shows had been overbooked and stretched too thin, upsetting Joie. After a legal battle Joie broke from the corporation and formed a new single unit entering into a deal with Chrysler to use Plymouth automobiles in his stunts. The six cylinder Plymouths did not perform as well the Fords and after one year Joie left Chrysler

Crossing the corner of 8th and Orange there is this boxed out post featuring a famulere. Texico Gas station that no longer exists in Coronado, Standing there is the former owner and Policeman next to the '32 Ford Coupe that was owned by the station owner. →

That night I flipped on Channel 59 and this old "LASSIE Movie was playing, that featured a rare 1941 Ford Sportsman convertble in the story.



Later we took Judy Grobel's grand kids from England (Fern and Shaun) in our '49 Woody, ( Shaun Drove) to see the Hotel Del. Inside we found Old photos of '56 T BIRD out front and President Roosevelt arriving in 1933 (what is HIS car?) And Marilyn Monroe there for her Movie 'Some Like It Hot' shot at the hotel in 1959.



My '64 Mustang from 1970-  
Kinda Like the new Cop Car?



2025 Mustang Cop Car.

Do you remember when the legendary Ford Fox-body Mustang patrolled the highways sporting the big bad 5.0 badge? That badge will be patrolling the streets again in a modern guise. The North Carolina State Highway Patrol announced the addition of 25 2024 Ford Mustang GTs to its fleet of police cars.



160 Bullet Holes



My First Car-in 1955---'34 Ford Fordor' Bought for \$15-. Got it running OK.Cleaned it up and Primered it. Blanket on Seats —Sold for \$75— Got a '30 Model A Pick Up next... and it went on and on for 500 more cars, VWs, Mustangs, old Fords, Plymouths , Studebackers, on & on....





# Fall Run to Carlsbad Caverns

Some C1 Corvette friends and I decided a late fall trip in the early Corvettes would be a good idea; we could see some fall colors and not be cooking in the summer heat in our old non-AC cars.

A full week of activities was planned in the great Southwest to involve friends from Poway in their 1961 Corvette, a couple from Yuma in their '59, and lastly, another couple from the Dallas area in their '58 Vette.

The '61 and I left early Sunday, 3 Nov and picked up the '59 Vette in Yuma. We spent the night in Tucson and too soon lost the Yuma couple who were having ignition problems. They would join us later in Socorro, NM. Leaving Tucson, we had a photo op in White Sands, NM:

We then visited the Alamogordo Museum of Space History and spent the night in Artesia where we were joined by the Texas couple and the Yuma couple. Next day was Carlsbad Caverns:

Followed by lunch in Roswell (one strange town!)

After an overnight in Tucson, it was time to head home, but first we took a 30 mile detour south on I-19 to visit a Titan Missile Silo:

One last significant event for me was back in Tucson headed west on I-10, my '59 miles rolled over to 100,000 miles:

Totals for the trip was about 1,700 miles, 20.55 mpg and one quart of oil.



## Someone asked me if I am a "car girl" because of the cars or the guys who drive them. The answer: Neither. I'm a trucker at heart.

First car: A '36 Ford pickup. In 1964 my dad gave it to me when I was 15 and told me if I wanted to drive it I had to know how to work on it. It was stock and still sported the original paint, but it was mine. He also told me that if he ever heard that I had people in the back, no more truck for me. Since he pretty much knew all the police and sheriff officers in La Mesa and Lemon Grove, I figured I'd never get away with breaking that rule. He never mentioned a restriction on the number of friends I could put in the cab though. He would have been surprised! That truck cycled down through my siblings (except my sister who was a girly girl) for nearly 30 years,



Cars came and went after that. There was always something to drive. My dad and my brothers always had trucks of course. I did the "need for speed" years in a '57 Chev, a '58 T-bird (which was a lead sled), a '65 Corvette, and then moved on to the "family" cars.

I returned to trucks and being a car girl when I bought a '53 five window Chevy truck...at the Big 3 in 2000. You can probably say I "killed" that truck when in my zest to restore it, I took it totally apart and stripped it down to bare metal. I can hear you groan as you read that sentence! Fortunately for me and the truck, a Marine bought the whole lot as parts for the truck he was restoring.



Next idea was bigger! I fell in love with COE's. With Dave Hume's help locating a beauty, I became the owner of a '46 Dodge COE, fully restored in original condition right here in San Diego. It was stored in the previous owner's cabinet shop. There was sawdust in every nook and cranny...including the engine. I restored the wood on the bed while I waited for the engine to be put back together after the cleaning. Reality finally set in. I realized I was never going to get to drive it. I watched it drive onto a flatbed truck and head to it's new home somewhere between Yuma and Moab where the new owner planned to drive it around town. I hope it happened.



And then there was the "dream" truck. Actually there were 2. I really wanted a '50ish Model B Mac truck. While I was out of town, Joe found this one parked in a lot on the side of the highway down in the desert. He actually talked with the owner on my behalf. When the owner realized who was planning on driving the truck, he made a good case on why it wouldn't be a good idea. Something about no power steering or power brakes, huge turning radius, etc.

So...that was pretty much the end of that dream.....



*...Continued*

*The other is actually too painful to write about. On an occasion when I was able to get away and walk the Big 3 by myself, I found the perfect "last" truck. It was so cute! I know that's not a car guy's choice of word to describe a car, but it was. Unfortunately it had just sold. That was the final truck dream blow.*



Now I'm just the little old lady driving the yellow corvette she's owned since 1968.

Oh well.

If I could do it all again...



**San Diego Early Ford VB Club  
General Meeting Minutes, February 19, 2025**

President Joe Valentino called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm and led the club in the pledge of allegiance.

**Presidents report:**

- The president reviewed a list of club members' birthdays, wedding anniversaries, and club membership anniversaries.
- The All-Ford picnic will be held Saturday June 21 at Santee Park. There's a volunteer signup sheet up front. We are on the Car Club Council website calendar. For participants, there's a signup sheet that will help us estimate food needs.
  - Joe noted the following dates:
    - February 20: Zoo Park Cruise
    - March 12 club breakfast
    - March 19 next regular meeting
- There's an informal swap meet at the Telegraph Canyon strip mall on Sundays after the Saturday Bonita donuts cruise-in.

**Vice Presidents report:** no report

**Secretary report:** The secretary reports that January minutes were published in The Fan. A motion was made, seconded and a vote taken to approve the minutes.

**Treasurer report:** No report.

**Accessories:** We have things for sale. Let me know if you want us to order anything.

**Sunshine:** No known issues.

**Fan editor report:** "It's coming along just fine."

**Car Club Council:** Had a meeting on the first Tuesday. We meet every other month. There's a lot of stuff coming up. 01 April meeting at Pernicano's El Cajon, 03 June at Classic Malt Point Loma, August Big Kahuna Imperial Beach, and Estradas Mexican Food Santee. El Cajon cruise plans are up in the air. This Saturday: show at Rancho Santa Fe Broken Yolk and a tour of the Mopar Ranch. This Sunday: Black Angus car show in Chula Vista.

**Historian:** Susan Valentino recounted events from the February 1976 newsletter. There was a parts swap meet followed by an open house at the home of Dave and Mary Ellen Huen.

**Refreshments:** Thanks to Tim and Sandy Shortt.

**Presentation:** Mike Petermann showed three videos of interest, 1) History of Offenhauser, 2) Model A Fords and their celebrity fans, and 3) Mike Hawthorn @ Le Mans 1956.

**Hard Luck Trophy:** It's a new year and the trophy is up for grabs.

**New Business:**

- Joe has raffle tickets for sale from the June 22-28 Central National Meet for 1) a Stromberg 97 carburetor, 2) an authentic reconditioned flathead V8 carburetor, and 3) a 22" neon Ford sign.
  - Paula is working on the asset program.

**50/50 Drawing:** Greg Henkels won \$40.

Dog  
Driving

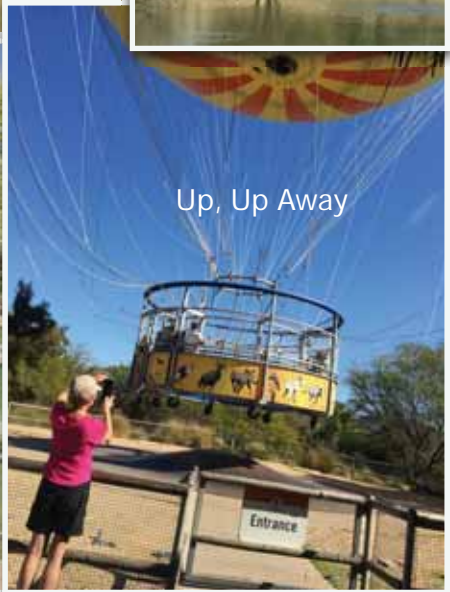


Nobody  
Driving

Perfect Day, Wildl animals & Interesting Uber drivers, Going & Coming. First was a friendly off duty Cop, to Houlihan's House, then Bill & Sue drove us to the Wild Animals. Coming back home, we had a Uber guy who's Brother is on Death Row for A Gang Fight murder, so our driver decided to quit the gang and get a job. Smart guy, good driver.



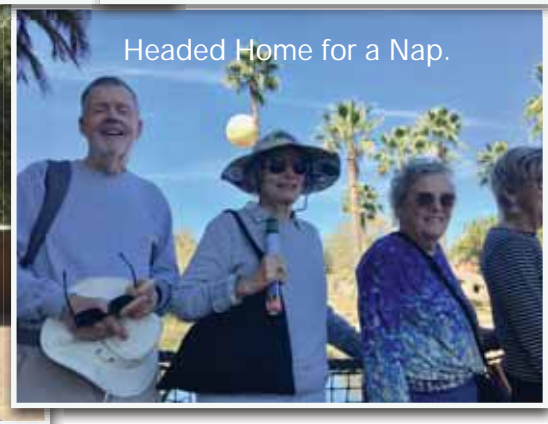
V8 Wild Animal Lovers, Tim, Sue, Sandy, Candy and Bill



I think this gilrl was trying to pick me up on the Tram



Eating to the beat of Jungle Drums



Headed Home for a Nap.

Historical San Diego USA  
40m

Torrey Pines State Beach, San Diego, California (1946)

In 1946, Torrey Pines State Beach was a serene stretch of coastline known for its rugged cliffs, golden sands, and crashing waves. Named after the rare Torrey pine trees that grow in the nearby reserve, the beach became a favorite destination for locals seeking a peaceful escape. The towering cliffs, with their jagged formations, provided dramatic views of the Pacific Ocean and were often used as a backdrop for photographs. Surfers and swimmers enjoyed the clear waters, while hikers explored the adjacent trails of Torrey Pines State Reserve. By 1946, the beach was becoming a popular recreational site for residents and tourists, marking it as one of the most scenic natural landmarks in San Diego.

#sandiego #sandiegocalifornia #california #explore #usa #historical #history



1930s Mission Beach neighborhoods



In 1941, converted streetcar homes in San Diego offered an affordable housing solution for working-class families and defense workers. For just \$25 per month, tenants could rent these converted streetcars, complete with basic utilities. These homes were former streetcars that had been retired from active transit service, repurposed into living quarters with beds, stoves, and small living spaces. The rise of defense-related jobs in San Diego during World War II led to a housing shortage, and creative solutions like these provided affordable, temporary shelter for workers. Often clustered in trailer camps or temporary housing areas, the streetcar homes symbolized the city's resourcefulness in addressing the housing crisis of the era. These homes offered residents a functional, cost-effective living option amid San Diego's wartime economic boom.

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Ford V8 Sedan (Front View)

In terms of design, the Ford V8 evolved throughout the 1930s. The early versions featured a more vertical and conservative body, but over time, the model adopted smoother and more modern lines, anticipating a style that would be seen in later decades. The 18-inch wire-spoke wheels and 5.25 x 18-inch tires complemented its structure, providing a distinctive style and a robust appearance.



Pacific Beach 1956-1968—  
Sandy's favorite Pier and surfing spot



'31 Ford Radiator Cover. Good Shape. Two Tiny dents \$150. 619-851-8927



4 Tubeless wide whites- Older but still usable- \$80. 619-851-8927



1950 Ford Custom Convertible. Have owned 35 years. Duplicate of my High School Car from 1956. Survived a Bear attack 10 yrs ago- then new Paint, Top, Interior. Chrome, '53 Merc (Flathead, 10 more HP,) 12 V, Overdrive, Dual pipes, Brakes, Tires, AC, 12v, Radio (looks original), Clean Dash, Many V8 trips. Parades. Starts easy, Drives great Hate to see it go, but I'm not driving any more- \$28k Tim-619-851-8927



Many '49-53 new /used flathead parts--also

Two Many Cars and No Garage? --- Carl Atkinson has a two -Car Trailer to rent- \$100 a Month.

...And a Lift available for use. Located in El Cajon- 619-892-0222

SDEFV8Club % Tim Shortt 1211 5th st, Coronado Ca 92118



Paula and Joe celebrating President's Day Feb 17



Sandy & Tim at Coronado Hotel Del —Showing Off.