



This Week

Meeting Date and Place

Thursday, February 4, 2010, at 12:15 p.m.....Cameron Park Country Club

Words of Wisdom

Words of Wisdom by **Rick Spicer**; Greeter **Art Cort**; and **Cindy Sutorka** at the front desk

Program

Sugar Loaf Program Bob Edwards

Last Week



Seated at round tables and eating box lunches in the California Automobile Museum on Front Street were 21 Cameron Park Rotarians and 2 guests. **Karen McClafin**, Executive Director, welcomed us and gave a brief introduction to the museum. We then separated into three groups, each led by a docent, and made a leisurely and thorough tour of the facility.

In 1982, a group of volunteers met to discuss the concept of an auto museum to be located in Sacramento--the first auto museum in the West to be established in perpetuity. Before the close of the meeting, a challenge was made by an attendee, who produced a one hundred dollar bill and asked who among the group would match it. Five additional one hundred dollar bills came forth and the

plan was born. The paperwork was begun to form the non-profit corporation and foundation, and the fruition was seen exactly one year later, on October 5, 1983, when the California Vehicle Foundation was established.

The group adopted the slogan On the Road to a Car Museum and meetings were held each week for the direction of museum development. The Mission Statement of CVF became: to develop an every-person auto museum. The first auto to be donated to CVF was a restored 1938 Buick sedan, a gift from John Joyce, president of the Golden One Credit Union, which is still on display at the museum.

In 1985, Edward Towe, a Montana banker owning the largest collection of Fords in the world, sent a letter inquiring if there was any interest in his Ford collection as it was in danger of losing its space in Deer Lodge, Montana. After a search of the area, it was determined that the best available location for the car museum might be a 72,000 square foot warehouse, located in the shadow of the interchange of Interstates 5 and 80, near Old Sacramento. With supervision and commitment by the City of Sacramento, a CVF committee negotiated the purchase of the property for the City in exchange for a long term lease from the City for the Museum.

In June 1986, Hadley Auto Transport offered to haul the auto collection to Sacramento, at no cost to CVF. A very busy summer of 1986 began the transformation of changing the warehouse into a Museum. Cleaning and painting, both inside and out, were monumental tasks. The Towe cars arrived at the Museum on September 27, 1986 at 10:30 a.m. A large crew of enthusiastic people was assembled to unload the cars from thirteen transporters and push the cars into the building.

On May 1, 1987 the Towe Ford Museum opened to the public, displaying the personal collection of Edward Towe, which included one of almost every car Ford ever made, from the pre-Model T to the Pinto. The Museum flourished in its early days, attracting locals and visitors to this new attraction.

In the mid-90⁰⁰s, however, in a tax dispute with Mr. Towe, the IRS slapped a lien on the cars. When efforts to find a buyer for the cars failed, the most extensive and complete collection of Fords was put on the auction block. The 1997 auction broke up the Towe Ford Collection and that could have been a death sentence for the Museum. Not so. The newly renamed Towe Auto Museum, on the banks of the Sacramento River in the shadow of Old Town, began displaying vehicles of all makes and models, creating a much broader story of the automobile through history.

Since the Museum no longer housed the Towe Collection, in 2009, the Board of Directors officially changed the name of the Museum to the California Automobile Museum, reflecting the expanded mission it has grown into over the last 25 years, which is to educate and entertain while preserving and promoting the automobile and its influence on our lives.

Many of the cars are set off in eye-catching displays, as a place to educate people about cars; to tell the story of the development of the automobile and its effect on our lives. Approximately 25% of the vehicles are currently owned by the California Vehicle Foundation and the rest are displayed by private exhibitors. Some of the cars are on loan for a month and some for five years, so the display is a constantly changing exhibit of rolling stock.

Presidents Corner



Vicki Christensen-McLain, the Club's International Chair, announced that in addition to Cameron Park Rotary's agreeing to send a Shelter Box to Haiti, the El Dorado Hills Club passed the hat last week and raised \$1,000 to send one as well and the remaining District 5190 clubs in our immediate area have raised \$2,400 to provide Shelter Boxes. According to available information, Shelter Box has \$1,000,000 worth of Shelter Boxes (that's 1,000 of them) enroute to Haiti right now and has another \$1,000,000 being prepared for transit. Walter Phillip is the Rotary point-of-contact for ShelterBox coordination.

President-Elect Anne Eckert reminded Club members that April 24th will be Rotarians-At-Work Day for Christmas in April on behalf of the Salvation Army and that the Georgetown Divide and Camino-Pollock Pines Rotary Clubs will be joining us in this effort.

WANTED: NEW MEMBERS:

The success of any organization depends on its members. New members are needed to replace those who leave, they bring new energy and they bring new ideas. Each member is an ambassador for the club and should be looking for likely candidates that will help the club achieve its objectives and thrive in the community. Membership Chair, **Mike Dugan** left cards on each table on January 14 for members to use to help attract new members. One briefly explains what Rotary is all about. The second invites potential new members to join us for lunch as a guest of the club. Anyone needing additional cards can get them from Mike.

Noted Rotarians



HAPPY BUCKS:

Everyone was happy, although a little cool, at the California Automobile Museum but **President Bill** was not in a revenue collection mode so no HAPPY BUCKS were collected or fines levied.

Birthdays in February

Coy Baugh

Bob Clarke

Mike Collom

Sig Hansen

Rube Jessop

Ron Losel

Dave Sargent

David Tavernetti

-----Spouses-----

Barbara Dorr

Gina Foulk

Starleen Keating

Anniversaries in February

Vickie & Christensen-McLain

Irina & Green

Chuck & JoAnn LePere

Mike & Trudy Neal

Rick & Irina Green Spicer

Upcoming Calendar

February 4, 2010 - The Sugarloaf Program by **Bob Edwards**

February 11, 2010 - Club Speech Contest

February 18, 2010 - General **Doug Stone** "Battlefield of the Mind---who our enemy is and how we can defeat him!"

February 25, 2010 - **Steve Snyder** will speak on the future of the auto industry

March 4, 2010 - **Eric Driever** will discuss the vision for Cameron Park

March 11, 2010 - Club Music Contest

March 18, 2010 - **Shall Sinta** from Edmonton Alberta will speak on the origin of the Four Way Test

March 25, 2010 - **Sue Watson** from Snowline Hospice will speak to us about new programs available through that agency

April 1, 2010 - **Apiary Farming** will present program on bee keeping

April 8, 2010 - Club Assembly

The Last Word



DATES TO REMEMBER:

Tuesday, February 2, 2010 - Monthly Board meeting at noon at Bass Lake Golf Course. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

February 13, 2010-**Chocolate Affair** by the Soroptomists--Wine,Food and Chocolate

April 8, 2010 - Club Assembly

April 17, 2010 - District Assembly in Reno

April 24, 2010 - Christmas in April. Ring a Bell for the Salvation Army.

May 21 to 23, 2010 - District Conference at the Grand Sierra Resort in Reno.

June 12, 2010 - **Wine at Town Center** (6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.)

October 9, 2010-**Show and Shine**

Mike Neal has put together a photo series of highlights of the 20th Annual Show & Shine Event held on Saturday, October 10, 2009. The link is at the bottom of this web page.

Gear Up is written by **Art Cort**, **Jim Buckley** and **Rick Spicer**. Web site, photography, and artwork through the talents of **Mike Neal**.