

Recreation of the Lions Drag Strip



2021 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REGION MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Rows of cars displayed at the Lions Automobilia Foundation & Museum



The Voigt's 1947 Packard

SATURDAY,
NOVEMBER 13,
2021

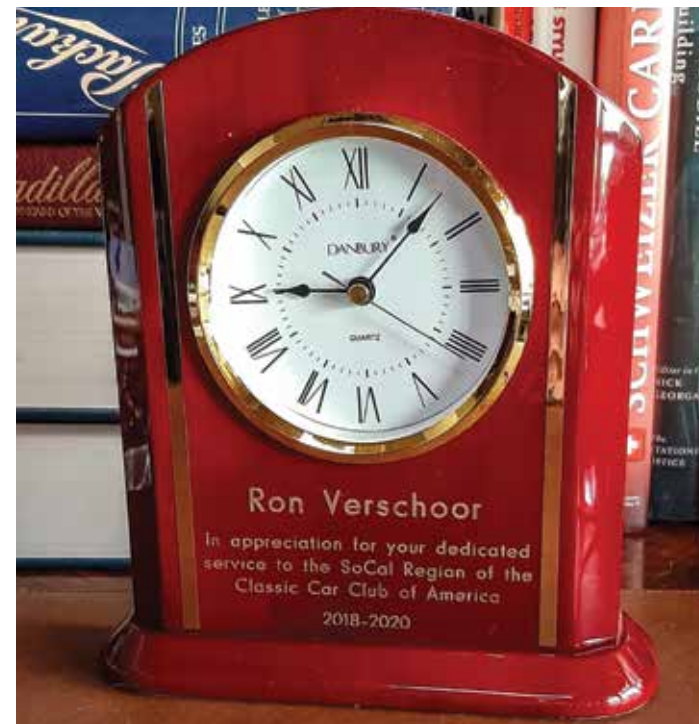
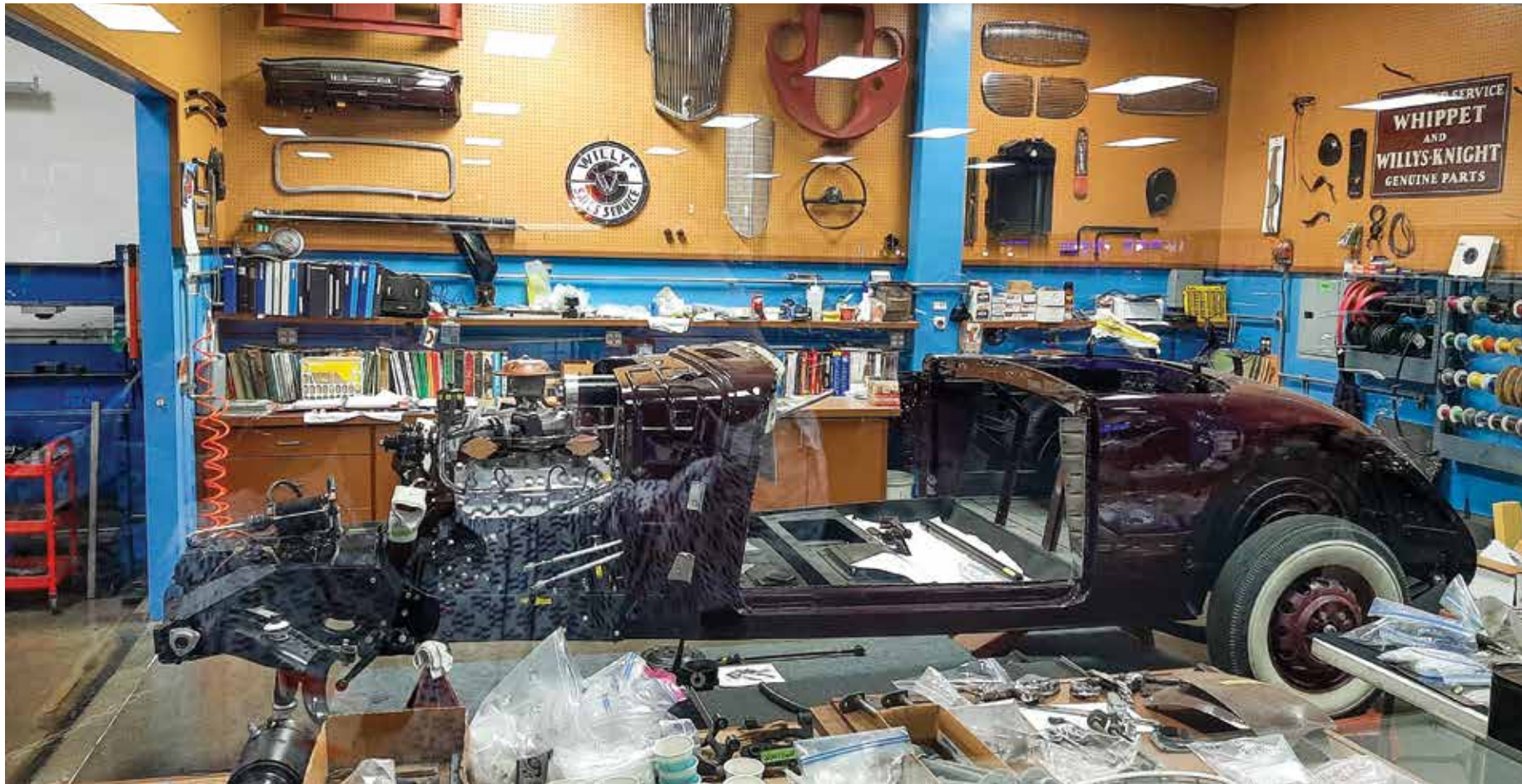
Our annual Regional membership meet took place Saturday, November 13, 2021, complete with a car collection tour and lunch. Event coordinator Paul Ginsburg once again spearheaded the gathering making arrangements to visit the Lions Automobilia Foundation & Museum in centrally-located Rancho Dominguez. We visited this collection five years ago in 2016 when it went by the name of Price Transfer Automobilia.

Price Transfer, Inc. is an international shipping business moving all manner of industrial and commercial goods. The range of product transported includes Classic cars as Price Transfer served as the shipping point of origin for John Milliken's Buick and Fred Lax's Cadillac on their journey to India in early 2020. Rick Lorenzen is the owner of Price Transfer and is a lifelong hot-rodder, as well as a member of our Region. His interest in automobiles began in his youth with a bit of drag racing and that interest in speed continues today, as evidenced by some cars in the collection as well as the décor and furnishing of the museum.

The 100,000-square-foot facility is home to more than 140 automobiles, all perfectly restored and presented in period-appropriate settings. Entering the museum, rows of cars from the 1930s through the 1960s are displayed in front of replica storefronts, a 1950s diner and a movie arcade. The newest addition is a faithful recreation of the starting line at the Lions Drag Strip which was originally located in nearby Wilmington.

October 9, 1955 was opening day for the Lions Associated Drag Strip, named after its sponsor, Lions Club International. Racing >





legend Mickey Thompson was an important force behind the development of the drag strip and while a crowd of 2,500 was expected for opening day by Mickey and his associates, more than 10,000 participants showed up to enjoy a day at the races. The drag strip remained an important part of the Southern California car culture until 1972, when it closed on December 2, having hosting the National Hot Rod Association's Grand Premiere event earlier that year.

These photographs illustrate the accurate recreation of that drag strip and credit goes to Rick and his team for their efforts in honoring this important race venue. Equally impressive is the recreation of a portion of the track making up the Long Beach Grand Prix. A life-size mural on one wall depicts a Formula 1 racecar approaching, flowing into a display of an actual racecar which then appears to race off into the distance on another wall mural. Well done!

Rick formed a non-profit in December 2019 named the Lions Automobilia Foundation & Museum and transferred the cars in the collection to the foundation. You can learn more about the museum at its website: lionsautomobilia.org

We also toured the restoration facility where a 1937 Cord 812 Cabriolet was undergoing restoration. We look forward to its completion in the near future. Tourmaster Paul Ginsburg became acquainted with Rick Lorenzen through the Palos Verdes Concours d'Elegance when Paul recruited one of Rick's cars for the show, a stunning 1963 Chevrolet Impala SS 409, 4-speed which is now displayed at the museum.

Our group then drove a short distance to the Red Car Brewery & Restaurant in historic Torrance for lunch and our membership meeting. Regional Director Paul Whitney introduced Board members and provided brief updates regarding membership, finance, publications and activities. He thanked Paul Ginsburg for his efforts in coordinating this event and encouraged all in attendance to participate in future events. Director Whitney then presented Ron Verschoor with a beautiful table clock in appreciation for his service as Regional Director from 2018 to 2020. Thanks also go to Diana Ginsburg and Michael Stull for making sure we had some coffee and sweets when we arrived at the museum.

Our Region is in good shape and April 2022 promises to be a busy month for activities. ●

Photos clockwise from top left: 1937 Cord under restoration; Steve Snyder's 1933 Duesenberg J Aviation Sedan, Weymann; John Milliken's 1939 Cadillac 61 Convertible Sedan; Recognition of immediate past Regional Director; Formula 1 racecar coming and going at the Long Beach Grand Prix.