



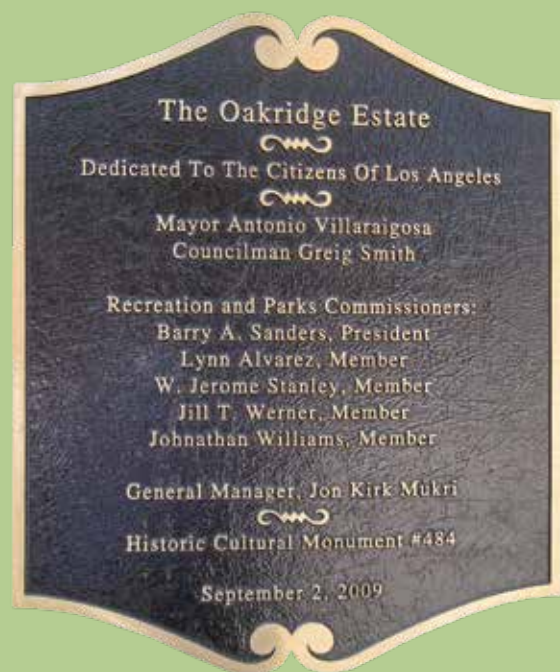
left to right:
John Milliken's 1941 Cadillac; The Kaplan's new
1941 Cadillac

The Oakridge Estate was built in 1937 for Barbara Stanwyck. Erected on a hill with magnificent views of the San Fernando Valley, the estate originally encompassed 100 acres, which Stanwyck co-owned with Zeppo Marx. At the time the property was named "Marwyck," a combination of the two last names and together, these screen stars engaged in a horse breeding and training facility.

Apparently, Barbara Stanwyck did not live there long, as silent screen actor Jack Oakie purchased the home in 1940, renamed it "Oakridge" and lived there

until his death many years later. His widow continued to live there until 1988 when she donated the property to the University of Southern California. It was later purchased by the city of Los Angeles Recreation and Parks in 2009. Vacant for many years the house was subject to years of vandalism and theft of many period lighting and trim fixtures. Though forlorn, run down and in need of restoration, it appears that some issues are now being addressed and there is a nonprofit foundation in place ("Friends of Oakridge") overseeing its preservation. >>>

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BY JOHN MILLIKEN

I have found that most Classic Car collectors also enjoy and collect other vintage items. I once collected vintage radios until I ran out of shelf space. I still collect watches, many of which are vintage and they take up less space. Most of us enjoy classic movies from the era of our cars and, of course, movie stars! With that in mind, on May 4th a large gathering of over 50 Southern California Region members ventured to Northridge to tour the home of one of Hollywood's most famous Classic era actresses.



Clockwise from left to right:
Master bedroom fireplace; the back
of the house; the pool overlooking
the San Fernando Valley; a guest
bedroom with fireplace.

The two docents did an excellent job of taking us back in time to an era that most of us can only dream about. They also shared some unknown to us facts about Barbara Stanwyck's life. One example: when she divorced actor Robert Taylor she was the highest paid actress, making more than her husband. Nevertheless, she sued Robert Taylor for alimony and collected it for the rest of Taylor's life. The walking tour of the 6,400-square-foot Tudor home and grounds lasted about 90 minutes.

SCR members Terry and Karen Kaplan live not too far from Oakridge Estates and own Robert Taylor's 1937 Packard Twelve Phaeton which most certainly spent much time at the estate back in the day. I expected they would drive it to the tour, but Terry recently purchased a very nice 1941 Cadillac 62 Series Convertible Sedan and drove it instead. Two other 1941 Cadillacs participated that day, my own Convertible Sedan and Dusty Rhodes' 60 Special.

Following lunch at a nearby Claim Jumper restaurant, we drove just a couple of miles north to visit the Miller estate and collection consisting of a dozen Packards and the beautiful garage, or should I say carriage house. After viewing the Packards we were invited inside, to the basement portion of this huge home. Here we got to see a vast display of Lionel trains. This was a wonderful set up of many models in motion, threading their way through a scaled countryside of forests, towns and work sites, with the background wall painted to match the display. Larry Miller passed away in 2013 and I knew him and we shared swap spaces at the Packards International annual meetings. He was a great guy! Many thanks to his son, Eric, who resides in the home and opened it to us.

I'll close this report with an important mention that this tour was initiated by the late Mike Porto. I was glad to see it become a reality and wish to thank Mike's assistant Sarah Rhee who took care of many of the details.

> For more information visit:
theoakridgeestate.com



This page clockwise from top right
 Dusty Rhodes' 1941 Cadillac; 1937 Packard 1507 Club Sedan; Elaborate model train display; Vintage gas pumps.

Opposite page from top
 1932 Packard 905 Twin Six Dual-Cowl Phaeton; 1931 Packard 840 Club Sedan; Plenty of Packards

