



FEBRUARY'S TAG-ALONG TOUR IN SAN DIEGO

BY RON VERSCHOOR



As mentioned in the Annual Meeting report, the Southern California Region once spanned a much larger geographic footprint. To the south, our Region originally stretched to the Mexican border but in 1992, the San Diego/Palm Springs Region formed and promptly garnered the moniker “the Touring Region” for its frequent driving excursions. Thankfully, the two Regions are quite compatible, with cross-promotion of events being the norm, not the exception.

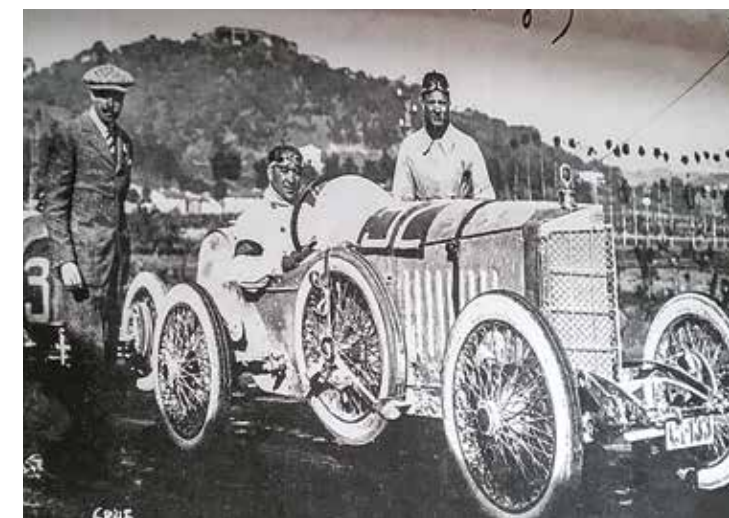
Membership between the two Regions often overlaps, in a good way and most recently, SoCal member and Board member Arnold Schmidt relocated to within the SD/PS boundaries and our loss on the Board was that Region's gain. One of his first actions after appointment to that Board

was to arrange a tour of a rarely accessed collection, Evans Garage.

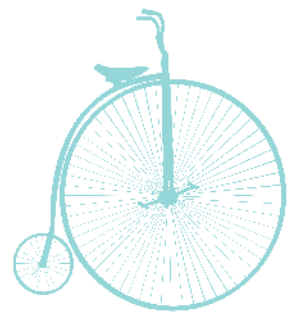
Located not too far from the 5 Freeway is a building with a nondescript exterior but a most spectacular interior. Cars ranged from the turn of the century to modern times but speed seemed to be the theme weaving most of these machines together.

An imposing (and impressive) 1917 Pierce-Arrow 66 dominated one corner of the first floor, complemented by some early automotive race icons: Fiat, Isotta Fraschini, Mercer, Pope and Alfa Romeo.

Suspended from the second floor ceiling and filling the center atrium is an 8/10th scale model of an early 20th century plane. On the second floor was a nice array of Classic marques: Cadillac (V-16 in this case), Auburn, Packard, Rolls-Royce, Hispano-Suiza, >>>



Photos CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:
1. View from the ground floor of Evans Garage.
2. A glimpse of a 1929 Auburn Speedster.
3. Original treasures like this Hispano-Suiza.
4. Photo capturing the Steyr's racing history.
5. Mercer Raceabout.
6. 1948 Alfa Romeo 6C2500 by Touring



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Lancia and Alfa Romeo. At a glance, I thought the Cadillac Roadster was a 1933 model since it carried skirted fenders, but I believe it to be a 1932 model, and after consulting Roy Schneider, he thought it might be the same car pictured in his "16-Cylinder Motorcars" on page 95. A 1923 Steyr shown at the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance in 2017 was one of the more unusual marques displayed. This particular example has a storied racing history.

Destined for Pebble Beach this year is a 1903 Mercedes (prior to Benz involvement, but after the name change from Daimler to Mercedes) undergoing restoration. Documentation about this car was found throughout the restoration shop, with period photographs serving as the primary guide to returning this vehicle to as-new condition.

It was noon and lunchtime before we knew it and we gathered at nearby Phil's BBQ for a tasty but messy (real barbecue always is) lunch. Bibs were optional, but recommended, as were plenty of napkins. Vicki and Carl Zeiger's stately 1936 Packard Twelve 1408 convertible sedan garnered plenty of attention in the parking lot and served as the perfect introduction to Classic cars for the curious bystanders.

Thanks go to Arnold Schmidt and Regional Director Mike Adams for coordinating this tour. Our Region will certainly return the favor in the future.



Photos CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:

1. CCCA members gather around a 1903 Mercedes undergoing restoration.
2. Early fire truck and Pierce-Arrow Model 66.
3. 1932 Cadillac V-16.
4. Lunch at Phil's BBQ.
5. Period photograph of the 1903 Mercedes used for restoration.

