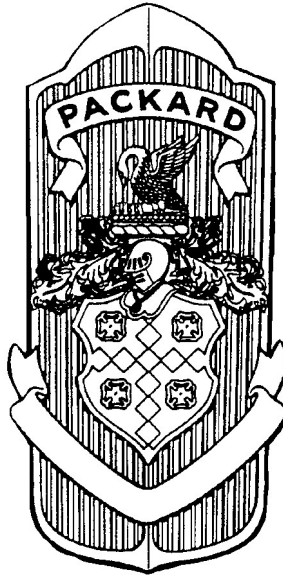


The
Pious
Pelican

April 2020



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Any changes, additions or corrections to the Pious Pelican should be directed to Clint Moore at batbuick@yahoo.com.

The Pious Pelican

March—April, 2020

Volume 59, No. 2

It saddens me to report that we have had to cancel our 2020 Meet out of an abundance of caution (See Jeff's report). And, out of necessity, I canceled our April Board of Director's meeting.

On the National Meet, so much planning has taken place by our incredible committee members.

All is not lost. We're working with the National Club on the possibility of hosting the Meet in 2023.

The National Club is holding Nor Cal Packards harmless, financially. By the time you read this, people's registrations will have been refunded. (Based upon registrations and hotel reservations, our 2020 meet was going to be a smashing success.)

And, based upon the feedback from those who signed up and on comments by Club members, I believe we will have a successful meet in 2023.

As a club, we're basically on hold pending pandemic developments.

Watch our reports for upcoming club events. We'll cautiously schedule tours as we can.

Thanks to Bud and Clint for getting out our *Pious Pelican* and for Bill Young for getting it printed and mailed out to you.

Stay safe and I look forward to seeing all of you when it is safe to meet in groups again.

Happy Motoring!

Steve Weir



2020 Packard National Meet—Postponed

As you may have already heard, the 2020 National Meet Committee in collaboration with Packard Club President Craig Handley and Vice President Paul Delaney, have made the decision to postpone our hosting of the National Meet, which was to be held in Rohnert Park beginning June 28th, due to the societal effects of COVID-19 and out of concern for the safety of our members and guests.

If you have already sent in your registration, you will soon be receiving a full refund from our Registrar Dave Wooldridge and Treasurer Kelly Monaghan.

If you have reserved a room at the DoubleTree, please call and cancel the reservation. I heard from one Packard Club Member that she had difficulty cancelling her room by phone but was able to do it on-line.

The good news is we're now slated to host in 2023 at the same hotel, and we've secured a room price of only \$3 more than this year. The dates will be June 25th-July 2nd, 2023.

For so many of us who have worked multiple years in planning this event, it is a great disappointment that we announce this postponement. We've had countless meetings to plan the details of the week, and many in our group have made multiple trips to Rohnert Park to look at sites for our events or to drive the tour routes. I wish to thank our core and advisory group who have spent many hours in the planning of this event. They are Steve Weir, Christopher Slater, Clint Moore, Mary Carpenter, Ron Carpenter, Bud Juneau, Dave Wooldridge, and Kelly Monaghan. Much thanks also to Mike Solomon and Stuart and Vallyn Proffitt who drove the tours laid out by Steve Weir to make sure Steve's directions were spot on! We also had many who volunteered to help in a number of ways like Tom Beidleman, who agreed to be the captain of the trailer parking task and Dave Grundman, who helped us find our judging day venue. Many other Nor Cal members volunteered to do anything we needed, from being field staff for judging day to being night watchmen at the hotel Packard parking area. We thank you all!!

Until our turn comes back around in June of 2023, I would recommend that you consider attending one of the next two National Meets, assuming it will be safe to travel by then. The Wisconsin Packard Club is hosting in Brookfield, WI (a suburb of Milwaukee) in 2021. Dates of that event are June 13-19, 2021. In 2022, the National Meet will be in Old Town Virginia. Look in *The Cormorant News Bulletin* for more information.

We will pick up our planning for 2023 after taking a well-deserved break and after refunding all registrations. If you had registered, look for your refund check soon.

Happy Motoring!

Jeff Mihaly

510-501-0415

jeffmihaly@yahoo.com





- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|
| July 26 | Annual Portal Park Picnic - Cupertino |
| August 2 | Board Meeting - Blackhawk Museum |
| September (tba) | Annual Swap Meet - Vallejo |
| October 4 | Driving Tour with Mercedes Club |
| October 11 | Board Meeting—Blackhawk Museum |
| December 6 | Annual Holiday Luncheon |

Due to COVID-19 concerns, all events through June have been canceled, including the PAC National Meet. We are cautiously optimistic that some form of a Portal Park Picnic can happen. Hillsborough and Pebble Beach have also been canceled.

For a complete and up-to-date list of events along with non-club concours and shows, please visit our website at www.norcalpackards.org/calendar.php

Where We've Been

CCCA Reno Event

March 10-12, 2020

Text by Clint Moore



A vintage neon Packard sign sits above a retrospective of license plates in the National Automobile Museum. (Photo: Clint Moore)

A rare opportunity presented itself in this mid-week invitation by the Classic Car Club of America to travel to and from Reno by rail and to visit the famed Lee Collection and the National Automobile Museum (formerly the Harrah's Collection).

Our merry group started in Emeryville with the Amtrak departure and picked up new friends and old at various stops along the way, reaching Reno with a total of about 20 people in time for dinner. Not everyone took the train; your editor and Christopher Slater opted to drive up after work Tuesday, while others flew in the next morning to make it a day trip. Our accommodations were at the El Dorado Hotel & Casino in the main section of downtown Reno, and right away it was noticeable that the usually bustling town was very quiet. Fears of COVID-19 had already caused many cancelations, so there were very few guests staying in any of the hotels or gambling in the many casinos. But a chance to visit the Lee Collection was enough of a temptation at least for your editor to brave the elements.

Wednesday morning broke bright and sunny, and many in the group opted to use the breakfast vouchers in the hotel buffet. We were among the only people dining, but the entire spread was out regardless of how many people were patronizing the establishment. None of us went away hungry!

After breakfast, the entire group met curbside to board our motor coach to the Lee Collection. Robert M. Lee was an inventor, businessman, entrepreneur, philanthropist and conservationist. His interests spanned big game hunting, horses, and of course automobiles. His collection of decorative armor and weaponry was recently displayed at the Nevada Museum of Art, and his cars are featured at Pebble Beach annually. Unfortunately, Mr. Lee passed away in 2016, but his widow Ann enthusiastically continues the tradition.

Mrs. Lee warmly greeted us at the door to the collection, and made sure we each felt welcome. She gave us a brief overview of what we would be seeing and introduced the staff who were on hand to answer questions. Seemingly everywhere were mounted trophies from Mr. Lee's many hunting expeditions and silver-embellished riding chaps from past parades, but we were all there to see the cars. And cars there were! Four interconnected warehouses containing hundreds of unique and pristine classic and collectible automobiles. Unfortunately, no photographs are allowed inside, but displayed here are a couple of photos of the Lee's cars at Pebble Beach. In fact, an entire wall of the warehouse was devoted to Pebble Beach ribbons and trophies, including at least two Best in Show awards!

The cars themselves spanned the most desirable and collectible makes and models imaginable from around the world. For example, there were

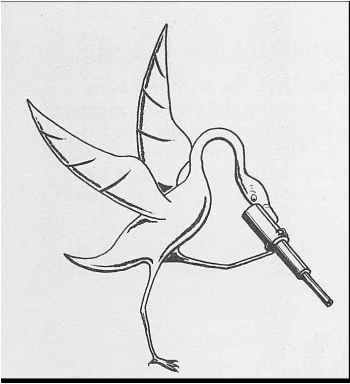
(Continued on page 11)



The late Robert M. Lee (front seat) and Mrs. Ann Lee (back seat) accept the 2009 Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance Best in Show award from show chairman Sandra Button for their 1937 Horch 853 Voll & Ruhrbeck Sport Cabriolet. (Photo: sportscardigest.com)

Special Photo Feature

Text by Clint Moore



A Bird's Eye View... *Into the Past!*

With few current events and tours to fill our pages, your editor and Bud Juneau have scoured the photo archives to present you with this retrospective of Western Regions Tours. We hope to make these old photos a regular feature. Do you have a photo from a past event (the older the better!)

that you would like to share? Please email a high quality version to your editor at batbuick@yahoo.com, and we will consider it for publication in a future issue. Thanks to Tom Goyne for creating this wonderful logo!



In 1962 participants in a weekend tour to Sierra City hosted by Chris Bock awoke to find their cars covered in snow! Here we see Tom Goyne's 1934 1104 Coupe Roadster feeling the chill. (Photo: Bud Juneau)



Above: Attendees of the 2013 Western Regions Tour to Bishop pose at the Manzanar World War II Internment Camp Memorial. (Photo: Bud Juneau)



Left: Two waterfalls: Becks' 1937 1500 Touring Sedan parked in front of Yosemite Falls at the 2016 Western Regions Tour. (Photo: Clint Moore)



Attendees of the 1992 Western Regions Tour to San Simeon. Left to right: Dick Meldazis, Jay Hubbard, John Woods, Doug Moore, Fred Johnson, Earl Rubenstein, Jim Chase, Mike Drake (Photo: Bud Juneau)



Not Western Regions, but the 2008 Swap Meet. PAC founding member Wayne Parson's 1938 1604 Super Eight Limousine and Bud Juneau's 1937 1508 Twelve Sedan dubbed "Helen Twelve Cylinders." (Photo: Bud Juneau)



Bud Juneau and Julie & Doug Moore stand with the Moores' 1946 Custom Limousine at the 1990 Western Regions Meet to Carmel. (Photo: Doug Moore)

Packards approaching the Carson Mansion at the 2017 Western Regions Tour to Eureka. (Photo: Clint Moore)



At the 1989 Western Regions Tour to Sacramento, Clint Moore waves from the Fullers' 1950 Convertible Victoria in a photo that would later be used to promote the 1994 PAC National Meet in Reno. (Photo: Doug Moore)



Mr. and Mrs. Lee display a pair of 1934 Hispano-Suizas at the 2014 Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance. (Photo: Richard Michael Owen, theoldmotor.com)

two of the earliest Ferrari race cars along with a photo of Mr. Lee having coffee with Enzo. Nearby was George Whittell's Duesenberg still with the shredded interior, courtesy of his pet lion. And a few cars away were an exceptional pair of Hispano-Suizas with coachwork by Fernandez et Darrin ordered in 1934 by Anthony Gustav de Rothschild of England, for himself and his wife Yvonne Cahen d'Anvers. The next room contained two whole rows of Rolls Royces, including two used by Queen Elizabeth II during a trip to Australia. Best of all, of course, were three Packards: a pair of 1934 1107 Twelve LeBarons, one a Run-about Speedster, the other a Sport Phaeton, and a 1938 1601 Graber-bodied Eight.

Once our brains were full and our stomachs were empty, the bar was opened, and Mrs. Lee invited us to sit at some tables she'd had set out to enjoy an assortment of sandwiches, salads and sweet treats. Mrs. Lee was very gracious as she visited each table offering to refill wine glasses and chat. Since many of the members of the PAC national meet committee were on hand, we made sure to invite her to bring one (or more!) of her wonderful Packards to Rohnert Park. While she had already shipped a car to Monaco and planned to attend a special concours there of automobiles that had been owned by royalty, she promised to see if something couldn't be arranged for us. [And we plan to stay in touch with her for 2023!]

With a fond farewell to Mrs. Lee, we boarded the bus again to head to the National Automobile Museum for an afternoon tour. The museum is a change of pace from the morning experience, and our docent was very knowledgeable. In this collection there is a broad spectrum from the earliest buggies and horseless carriages to more modern conveyances. Everything from luxury to utilitarian is

(Continued on page 12)

displayed in themed showrooms depicting the way of life during the era of the cars' manufacture. Among the many unusual vehicles of the museum, such as the 1938 Phantom Corsair or the 1907 Thomas Flyer that won the New York to Paris Around the World Race, are a number of Packards. The 1900 Model B, which we hope will be displayed at our national meet, is the oldest Packard in the collection, and there are examples of many models up into the 1950s.

Back at the hotel, a group gathered for a traditional dinner at Louis' Basque Corner. An embarrassing amount of food was served family style as course after course was presented to the twelve of us that ventured out together. The brisk walk back to the hotel was needed just to settle our stomachs!

In the morning, we boarded the train for home. Taking in the beautiful vistas from a comfortable chair in an Amtrak observation car is the best way to appreciate the majesty of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. And eventually the rails led us back home. Thanks again to our friends in the Classic Car Club for organizing this wonderful experience and to Mrs. Lee for her hospitality. Hopefully we will get to venture out again soon for more adventures!



1950 Packard Deluxe 8 on display at the National Automobile Museum.

(Photo: Clint Moore)

Nor Cal Packards members who attended

Chris Bock

Sam Cohen

Neil & Barbara Gapoff

Jim Hussey

Jeff Mihaly

Clint Moore

Bob & Karen Reed

Christopher Slater



One of the oldest Packards in existence! The 1900 Model B that we hope will grace our national meet in 2023. (Photo: Clint Moore)



Left to right: Jim Hussey, Clint Moore, Karen & Bob Reed, Neil & Barbara Gapoff, Chris Bock and Jeff Mihaly pose in front of a 1932 902 Coupe Roadster at the National Automobile Museum. (Photo: Jay Hubbard)

Out and About Members on the go!

Since we can't currently meet up, some members have been taking drives on their own. Send us your photos if you're "out and about!"



Rob Guzzetta's 1928 526 Sedan and Frank Giordano's 1930 745 Formal Sedan in Southern Santa Clara County on April 23. (Photo: Rob Guzzetta)



Christopher Slater's 1934 1100 Sedan posed in front of the former San Jose Packard Dealer on April 18. (Photo: Christopher Slater)

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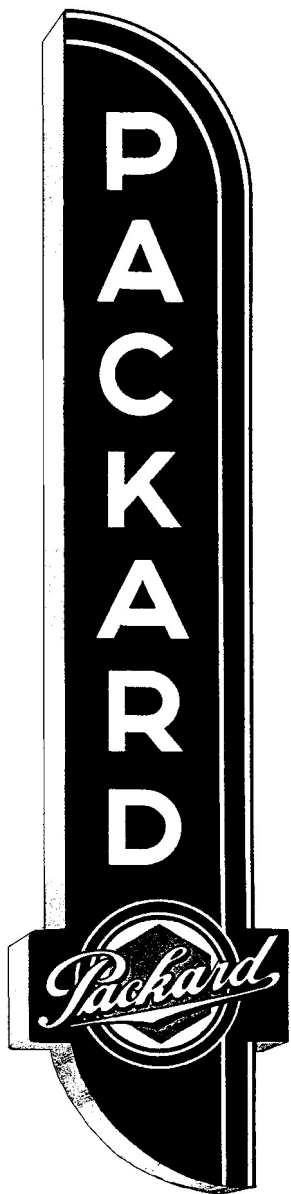
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