



**EARLY FORD V-8 CLUB OF AMERICA
SACRAMENTO REGIONAL GROUP #4**



CLUTCH CHATTER

January 2013

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January Meeting

Our next meeting will be held on **MONDAY, January 7th**, in the Conference Room of the Sheriff's Sub-Station at 2500 Marconi Avenue, Sacramento. Tire Kicking at 7:00 PM and Meeting at 7:30 PM Sharp. Parking is available in the front parking lot. We hope that you all can attend; guests are always welcome.

Dues of \$20 are due for 2013

**See Page 3 for
payment information**

Christmas Party 2012

The Christmas dinner at the Dante Club was delicious as usual. Roughly 35 of us attended; telling stories and enjoying the food. New board members were introduced. Dale and Dave were added to the happy mix. Dale and Dave who, you ask? Dale Simpson and Dave Petersen of course! Dale is going to be our new president with Dan as his wing man. All in all we had a great time. Oh, by the way, according to Bill T. you can't always trust a GPS. Let's hear it for good old fashioned maps! Have a happy New Year! Steve Wahab



Please visit our website at clutchchatter.org for pictures, tour plans and much more.

1940 Ford in my Heart

Before I was born, my two uncles, Bill and Jim, and a neighbor boy went to the big city of Seattle and bought a used Cloudmist grey, Deluxe 1940 Ford Opera Coupe from a dealership for \$400. They drove it back to their home in Wenatchee, and in time Bill sold the car to my grandfather, Ray Campbell.

When I was born June 21, 1941, it was a tumultuous time in America with the outbreak of World War II, and my parents were living with friends and family in and around Wenatchee, Washington. The challenges were large, to say the least, and my parents had no car, no house and for some income they road with friends to and from the orchards daily to pick fruit to make ends meet.

What my parents did not have in worldly goods, they had in ambition and a big dream. They would do their level best to provide a Christian education and a love for God and country for their four children.

During those early years of the 40' and 50's, cars were like giants in the land to me, and my love affair and enthusiasm for the make and model of various automobile companies was like a real-life Huckleberry Finn Adventure. It gave me great joy to be able to tell you the year, make, and model of almost any car on the road; and my brothers, Dave and Paul, were no match for me when it came to knowing the details of those cars, such as a 1957 Black Chevrolet Bel Air Sport Coupe Hardtop with a 283 h. p. V-8 engine.

My uncle Bill, who lived in Wenatchee, stopped at our home in Soap Lake, Washington one summer afternoon. He was driving a "Jimmy" or GMC big rig, hauling steel. The truck had 16 forward gears, and I can still remember standing beside my brothers watching him pull onto the highway then listening and counting as the sound of him shifting the gears faded into the distance.

When we went to visit my grandparents, my Grandfather would take me to the store in his '40 Ford Coupe, and I would ride in one of the two passenger Opera Seats right behind the split front seat. To me, that was like riding the Land Rover on the moon. On many a day, you could find me behind the big wheel of that '40 Ford pretending to drive on the busy highways wherever my imagination would take me.

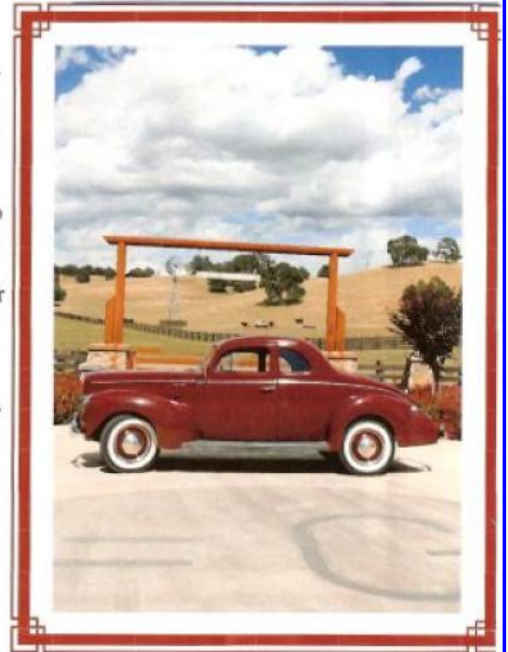
As time went by and I grew older, one day my Grandfather promised me that when something happened to him I was to get that car. Right there I dreamed and talked about that car to anyone and everyone I knew including my brothers.

Time marched on; we moved away from Spokane, Washington, to South Bend, Indiana, in 1965, and I was enrolled in Indiana Academy. After graduating I then worked for my father building houses and started my first year of college at Andrews University; soon I was drafted to serve my country in the Army and shipped to the Panama Canal. Upon my return from the military service I married my Academy sweet heart, Virginia, and drove away after the wedding reception in a brand new red 1964 Ford Galaxy 500 XL convertible.

After starting my family, I owned many cars over the years, but in the back of my mind I still could not erase that 1940 Ford Opera Coupe that my Grandfather had promised me.

In 1976 my Grandfather passed away and at the time my life was full to the brim with family and work, and four growing boys. However, nothing could keep me from sharing my love of cars with my boys and we overhauled and worked on many different makes and models.

Strangely enough, when my Grandfather passed away, I never pressed for the dream I had been thinking about all my life, the promise that one day I would be the proud owner of that 1940 Ford Opera Coupe.



CARS AND PARTS FOR SALE

4" Drop Axel for a 29 model A \$150.00
Front upper and lower brackets for tub shocks
for 29 model A \$30.00
46-48 Front and Rear backing plates \$100.00
Steve Wahab (916) 988-4249
Cell: (916) 616-4249

Jahans 3-5/16 new pistons in box \$450.00
Slightly used 3-5/16 pistons \$150.00
Russ Broyles (916) 363-3740

1941 complete gage cluster needs front glass
\$150.00
Single wire chrome alternator 80 amps \$75.00
Mercury 4" crankshaft has not been turned stand-
ard \$350.00
Ford 3.75 crankshaft \$100.00
Exhaust manifolds 38-48 Ford or Mercury \$25.00
Gary Thompson (916) 652-0701

1940 Ford in my Heart (continued)



Since then I have often wondered what happened to the car and what a thrill I would get to open the door, pull the split seat forward, and imagined myself sitting in one of those Opera Seats as a six-year-old then quickly pushing the split back seat and slipping in behind the wheel of the dream come true and driving off into the sunset of automobile heaven.

Today is that day, and this is the car for a little boy who had a dream that came true in more ways than you can imagine.

Now may I tell you the rest of the story?

Paula and Larry Cotton of Dallas, Texas, bought this very car from a gentleman in 1979 of Irving, Texas and began a complete frame-off restoration. Larry was a full time employee of Hitachi computer and gone three weeks out of every month. On the one week he was home, he wanted to do nothing but work on his seven cars, three tractors and half

a dozen motor cycles he had acquired over the years. Paula, his wife, says that in order to remain close to her husband when he came home, she simply spent time working alongside Larry, grease and all, and eventually her interest and passion for cars could only be exceeded by Larry's love of flying.

Tragically just two years ago, while Larry and a neighbor friend were out flying on a beautiful Texas afternoon, upon making their final approach and coming in for the landing, a wind shear drove the plane into the ground. Both men perished and of course Paula was left with not only the pain of her dearest friend, husband and father to their two daughters Lorry and Cheryl, but she was forced to deal with their antique Ford car collection, their Ford tractors, and the motorcycle collection.

In February of this year, Paula told a dear friend who bought and sold collectable cars that she was now ready to let the cars go to their new owners. So, this is "Freddy Ford," the 1940 Ford Deluxe Opera Coupe.

The entire vehicle has been taken completely apart. In fact the running boards lay quietly under Paula and Larry's master bed for two years as they were putting the car back together over a twelve year period.

The Early Ford V-8 Club of America has the privilege of having the president of the club for North America, Bobbie York, living in Dallas. He was a dear friend of Larry and Paula Cotton and personally worked on this car with Larry. A side note: Bobbie York also has a '40 Ford Business Coupe and has driven his over 100,000 miles to every state in the United States except Hawaii.

When Larry's life was tragically cut short, many local members of the Early Ford V-8 Club came together and helped Paula get the cars ready for delivery to their new owners.

Recently, my brother Dave, flew to Dallas, Texas, and drove this car over 100 miles and said to Paula, "With your permission, I would like to take "Freddy Ford" to Apopka, Florida, and give it as a birthday gift to my brother for his 70th Birthday."

With tears in her eyes, Paula handed Dave the keys and now you know... The Rest of the Story.

**You must belong to
the National Club**

(Please Print)

Membership Renewal Sacramento Regional Group of The Early Ford V-8 Club of America

**Mail to:
Early Ford V-8 Club RG #4
Alma Thompson
9575 Horseshoe Bar Rd.
Loomis, CA 95650**

Date _____

Name _____ Spouse _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (____) _____ Email _____

National Club Membership Number (Required) _____

Annual Regional Group #4 Dues \$20.00 Please pay the regional group direct. Do not mail to National.

DATE	2013 EVENTS	PLACE
JANUARY 7 MONDAY	REGULAR MEETING 7:00 PM Tire Kicking 7:30 PM Meeting	SHERIFF'S SUBSTATION
FEBRUARY 4 MONDAY	REGULAR MEETING 7:00 PM Tire Kicking 7:30 PM Meeting	SHERIFF'S SUBSTATION
MARCH 4 MONDAY	REGULAR MEETING 7:00 PM Tire Kicking 7:30 PM Meeting	SHERIFF'S SUBSTATION
APRIL 1 MONDAY	REGULAR MEETING 7:00 PM Tire Kicking 7:30 PM Meeting	SHERIFF'S SUBSTATION
APRIL 13 SATURDAY	SHENANDOAH VALLEY WINE TOUR MEET AT BROOKFIELDS, 10 AM	VOLCANO RANCHO CORDOVA
MAY 6 MONDAY	4:30 PM VINTAGE FORD (Pictures will be taken of members cars' for album)	REGULAR MEETING RANCHO CORDOVA
MAY 18 SATURDAY	FORDS TO THE FOOT HILLS CAR SHOW	REDHAWK CASINO
JUNE 5 WEDNESDAY	5 PM WM POND PARK CASPER HOT DOGS – POTLUCK (Pictures will be taken of members' cars for album)	SACRAMENTO
JUNE 17-21	GRAND NATIONAL GOLDEN JUBILEE	SOUTH LAKE TAHOE
JULY 6 SATURDAY	OLD AIRPLANES & OLD FORDS BBQ & POTLUCK 10 AM (Pictures will be taken of members cars for album)	CLARKSBURG MEET EXECUTIVE AIRPORT
AUGUST 17 SATURDAY	ICE CREAM SOCIAL THE THOMPSON'S ALMA & GARY THOMPSON'S (Pictures will be taken of members' cars for album)	LOOMS 11 AM BROOKFIEDS'S
SEPTEMBER 8	SWAP MEET	CONSUMNES RIVER COLLEGE
SEPTEMBER 19 THURSDAY	REGULAR MEETING 5-8:30 PM PIZZA & SALAD	CAM SACRAMENTO
OCTOBER 5 SATURDAY	POKER RUN 9-930 AM BROOKFIELD'S	BERT'S DINNER, WILTON
NOVEMBER 2 SATURDAY	VINTAGE FORD 11:30 AM HOT DOG MEETING	RANCHO CARDOVA
DECEMBER 1 SUNDAY	CHRISTMAS DINNER 5 PM SOCIAL HOUR, 6PM DINNER	DANTE CLUB

NOTE THE EVENTS LISTED ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE