



PRESIDENT'S THOUGHTS

Richard Schauer

Hello and Happy New Year to everyone! May 2016 find everyone healthy, happy, and perhaps in need of losing a few of those pounds packed on through the Christmas holiday season.

This is the first greeting by your new president. I write this in the afterglow of our 2015 Christmas Holiday luncheon at the Lazy H Restaurant. If not the best, this year's luncheon ranks way up near the top since I have been a PISDR member. I define that in terms of weather for driving our Packard cars to the event, chit-chat time for car talk and greeting members we have not seen in some time, quality of service and food presented by Lazy H staff, congeniality at mealtime, and the great fun with the Chinese gift exchange that finished off our events. Is it my imagination or is the quality of gifts rising? Perhaps my memory is failing, but in years past I recall many of the gifts being white elephant types, nice to be sure, but perhaps something we might bring back next year to pass along to the next person. Not so today. Some very nice and impressive gifts were unveiled on December 13th. Karen and I ended up with a bottle of Jose Cuervo tequila and Oro do Oaxaca mescal complete with worm! I know we will enjoy serving it, but I'm not so sure about that worm. A great deal of fun was had stealing gifts or feigning to do so.

This next paragraph is aimed at those who were unable to attend the party. I consider myself blessed to be associated with such fine people as we have in our club. Yes, we enjoy our Packards, love to drive them and expose them to the public, and indeed are obligated to do so, but for me personally the true gift the club has given me is so many friendships. As far as the office of club president is concerned I am in awe just a bit because I am fully aware of the shoes I must fill, starting with Steve Ross, and then scrolling back in time with Mark Burnside, Phil Pizzuto, and so many other outstanding individuals who have headed up our wonderful club. I promise it won't go to my head. If we are not having fun we are doing it all wrong. Success of our club has everything to do with you the members. This is not about just a few contributors. So many people volunteer time, work, and make sacrifices for the club that are too many to name. Each person brings his and her special talent, and the result is outstanding success, made to look easy but is in truth not...involving tons of work. We are bound by our love and dedication to that car called the Packard.

Don't expect sweeping changes. Our club functions at a high level, so "If it ain't broke, don't fix it" definitely applies. I do plan to add a new feature to our already outstanding monthly news magazine. Before the start of a recent monthly board meeting we were talking about things that happened to us as youths, funny to look back on now but pretty scary at the time. They were car related of course, and we found ourselves howling with laughter. Doesn't everyone have such a story they would like to share? So, look for Car Talk in this issue (not an original name, sorry). It includes a story from my young adulthood that hopefully will amuse you. I ask everyone to send in such a story. Each one is golden in my opinion and should be shared.

Reminder: Don't forget the New Year's Day brunch at the fabulous Hotel Del Coronado at 12:00 noon, and the January 16th planning meeting at the San Diego Police Museum on College Avenue at 10:00 am. Everyone is encouraged to send in ideas and/or attend personally. We are going to have a great year in 2016.

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THE TRADITION CONTINUES NEW YEARS DAY BRUNCH AT THE DEL CORONADO



Join us Friday January 1, 2016 to kick off the New Year with brunch at the world famous Hotel Del Coronado. The "Hotel Del" opened for business in 1888 and at that time was the largest resort hotel in the world and was declared a historical landmark in 1977. The celebrity guest list for the Del Coronado covers just about anyone who was ever a celebrity, the most significant being the San Diego Region of Packards International Motor Car Club.

Do you recognize any of the celebrities in the photo on the right?



Some of the Packards from past New Years gatherings



The Crown Room is continuously voted the best brunch in town by the San Diego Magazine and the San Diego Union Tribune readers. It offers seven distinctive dining stations and every morsel of food is gourmet and the selection of beverages are the very best available both foreign and domestic. Champagne, Mimosa and soft drinks are included. Go to <http://hoteldel.com/restaurant-coronado/crown-room/> and check out the extensive brunch menu.

Here is the deal: Cost is per person is \$65.00, including tip (Note that your Board of Directors has voted to subsidize this event; the normal rate is \$90 plus tip.)

You are encouraged to drive your Packard or other vintage automobile. There will be special recognition as well as special parking for our beautiful vintage automobiles. Even though the cost of the brunch has increased we were able to negotiate the same price as last year. The number of vintage automobiles was a factor so please drive your Packard or other vintage automobile

Arrival time is 12:00 noon. This will give us three hours to enjoy a leisurely dining experience, tell war stories and just enjoy the ambience. After lunch we can tour the Del or walk around the village of Coronado

Send your reservation with check to Steve Ross @ 16151 Fruitvale Rd, Valley Center by December 30, 2015. Also, please specify which automobile you intend to drive to the event.

THE STORY OF A CHRISTMAS PARTY

Steve Ross



Bright and early Sunday morning yours truly went to the site of the San Diego Region's Christmas Holiday party and it was evident that there had been a visitor. Snowmen and toys were scattered about and gifts had been placed on the table. A hat that appeared to be Indiana Jones's was also on the table. Now I am not claiming that it was Indiana's hat but it did say Indiana inside the hat

I checked around and there was no one that had seen anybody or that would admit to it anyway. Strange things have happened at

this location before so I moved on with my tasks. Our party room is located close to the kitchen so I could smell the prime rib, pies, rolls and soup cooking. It was a bright cool crisp morning not unlike in the East, and even Scrooge or the Grinch would have been tempted to smile and say Merry Christmas. The Lazy H staff and I eagerly awaited the arrival of the first Packard. We did not have to wait too long before the grill of a 1935 Limo silently appeared coming round the bend driven by the Woolsey's followed by a 1934 Packard convertible sedan driven by Tom O'Hara. They were followed shortly by our incoming president and first lady Richard and Karen Schauer and Mr. Tim Pestotnik in his '34 Roadster Convertible.



The limo, convertible sedan, and the closed sedan driven by successful businessmen are in sharp contrast to the roadster convertible driven by a single (or wanted to be seen as single) playboy of that era. Many of you may have noticed that we have some really nice Packards in our region. There a lot of nice ones we don't get to see very often. Follow us on [Facebook](#) for occasional updates on our fellow PI members and their Packards.



Soon other guests began to arrive. This is Marjo Miller loaded with gifts for our famous gift exchange. Lagging far behind is Dion carrying even more treasures for our gift table. Marjo and Dion were so excited about the party that they came a day early. I wonder if they set up the toys and left the hat?



It wasn't long before Mr. Mark Burnside arrived in his 1949 Limo "Miss Daisy". She is just as lovely as ever and always makes a grand entrance. No one knows for sure just how long this Packard is! It is highly maneuverable for its size.



As guests arrived they grabbed refreshments and gathered on the patio to talk. Yep the conversation was about Packards. Going from L to R we have Mark Burnside, Deborah and Dale Costanzo and Larry Johnson. Mark won the award for best dressed. Mark is the master of the gift exchange so he must look a bit official.



Some of the Ladies of Packards, Deborah Costanza, Catherine Woolsey and Arvilla Johnson.

Marjo and Catherine of the Ladies of Packards.

It is quite apparent that they are having a good time. How could they not, after all it is a Packard Party



Mike Adams, Paul Santy, Dale, Deborah Costanzo , Kathy Santy, Catherine Woolsey, Peggy Ramsing, Gary Marchetti, Arvilla and Larry Johnson.



Paul (peeking around the corner) Kathy, Karl, Peggy, Ann and Gary, Arvilla and Larry Johnson.



Most everyone is seated and eagerly awaiting the roast beast and red snapper

Below left: Mark explains the rules of the gift exchange to Nellie



Above right: Gift exchange is underway with Richard proudly displaying his historic blanket as Ron and Nellie chuckle. Richard got to hold the blanket for approximately 2 minutes.

**Tim with his nice bottle of wine as
Dion, Marjo, Catherine and Jim admire it**



**Kathy Santy admires Catherine's gift.
Wonder if Catherine got to keep it?**



**Paul and Kathy watch Larry confiscate the Jim Beam.
Karl and Peggy are not smiling**



**Brian and Mark are enjoying
watching the gift exchange.**
It is fun to watch when it is not
your treasure being whisked
away and one must go in search
of something else.



**Dion, Marjo, Catherine, Tim, Jim and Tom all laugh with Mark as he takes away Tim's vintage
Packard service sign.**

This form of gift exchange may sound strange, but it is really fun. Join us next year and see for yourself.



It appears that Mike has Richard's blanket. Oh well...



Kathy is thinking: "Oh my, what a nice basket of goodies."

Incoming president Richard helps Marjo hold up her official 1999 Pebble Beach Poster which featured the 1934 Packard Dietrich better known as the "Car of the Dome". This Packard was shown for the first time at the 1934 Chicago World's Fair. Wonder if Ron and Nellie are thinking about stealing it? All I can say is, the poster did not go home with Marjo



Tim proudly displaying his vintage Packard sign shortly before Mark comes to get it.



It appears that Karl may be becoming attached to Ann and Gary's vintage car book



Mark the gift exchange moderator finally gets to unwrap something.

What a really big Christmas Party show it was - starring the members of the PI San Diego Region. I am already looking forward to next year's party. If you have never seen a piece of prime rib as big as your plate and at least a half of a red snapper, come to our party! There were a lot of doggie bags being handed out.

UNTIL NEXT YEAR HAVE A GREAT 2016, AND WE WILL SEE YOU AT OUR NEXT EVENT

1936 PACKARD MODEL 1400 STANDARD 8

Al Smithson

This all original 1936 Packard was sold new by the Earle C. Anthony Packard Dealership in Los Angeles and has remained in Southern California its entire life. Al Smithson purchased it at an auction in Del Mar in 1981 and it has resided in the historic Golden Hill neighborhood of San Diego ever since.

When the classic did not reach the seller's reserve at the auction, Al followed it out into the parking lot and struck a deal with the owners. It cost Al his MG-TD plus \$1,300. The MG went north and the Packard came south to San Diego – a very happy trade for all parties.



Al is a long standing member of Packards International and regularly attends the annual Membership Meet in Orange, CA. He has been a member of the San Diego Region for several years. In mostly original condition, this Packard has served as a model for owners to refer to in their restoration of similar model Packards, particularly in restoring their interiors to Packard perfection. This Packard is an excellent candidate for an Historic Preservation of Original Features (HPOF) vehicle as designated by the Antique Automobile Club of America (AACA).

Al Smithson's love affair with Packards began at a very young age "down on the farm" in North Carolina where his parents drove a 1939 Packard before and during the war.

Al and his '41 Packard

Al acquired his first Packard in the 1970's at an Antique Car Dealer in Encinitas when he traded his 1940 Buick business coupe in on a 1941 Packard Business Coupe – much like what a young man on his way up the social and business ladder might have done in '41. Al remembers the trade cost him the Buick plus \$3,000. He still has the '41, another example of an excellent original Packard.



Over the years, Al's Golden Hill fleet of Packards has grown and they are driven regularly around San Diego and on AACA local tours. These Packards are frequently seen "cruising" the Gaslamp, Hillcrest, North Park and Antique Row on Adams Avenue. During the summers, Al and his Packards are regulars on various cruise nights around San Diego, and in the annual Fourth of July parade in Coronado as part of San Diego Region of the Antique Automobile Club of America.





Major Minor fans

Richard Lentinello's column on station wagons in *HS&EC* #124 prompted subscriber Fred Puhn of National City, California, to write in about his favorite: a 1960 Morris Minor 1000 Traveler. "When my wife and I got married, she wanted to have her own car for the first time in her life," Martin writes. "She wanted something small, easy to drive and easy to fix, with good economy." The Minor was recommended by a local foreign-car mechanic. "He said they hardly ever needed work, and when they did, it was easy and low-cost for the owner."

He found a nice, 30,000-mile example in nearby La Jolla, and drove it home. It took his wife around town, brought two newborns home from the hospital, and, in time, ferried those kids to Little League and dance lessons. She even learned to do a valve job on the little four-cylinder.

It eventually fell into disuse, and sat in the couple's backyard, until his wife decided she wanted to restore it. Fred took care of the mechanical work, and the interior and bodywork were farmed out. It now sports the bigger 1,275-cc engine, MG disc brakes, a taller rear axle ratio and a Datsun five-speed gearbox.



"It is a wonderful little car and usable today on the freeway with its few upgrades," he writes.

The Morris is about to hit 100,000 miles, and the couple about to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary, Fred figures that a nice trip is in order. Safe travels, you kids.

This article about Fred Puhn's Morris Minor was taken from the ***Hemmings Magazine***. As you may recall Fred had an article about his 1950 Packard Deluxe sedan in a past issue of the Predictor. Fred's wife Margaret is shown in the photo holding a little girl which I bet is a granddaughter.

CAR TALK

Richard Schauer

When I lived in Chicago my neighbor across the hall was a Polish American woman named Mrs. Warick. Her older brother Tom apparently was a wild one when he was young. As children of Polish immigrants they grew up in Cicero, a bastion of blue collar white families surrounded on 3 sides by other ethnic groups. Cicero was a tough city, but kids growing up there said it was a great place to live.

Tom and his friends owned a 1950 Ford, pretty much a beater that they drove just about everywhere as high school teens. One Saturday evening the group of boys had a great idea: they welded a steel folding chair to the roof of the Ford. They then took turns driving the car like a banshee around the streets of Cicero with each boy rotating up onto the roof to sit in the chair, hoping to remain there throughout the duration of the ride. God was smiling upon them that night, for no one was hurt. But at last a police car spotted them. After pulling them over, the the cop vigorously chewed their behinds and returned them to their homes, where papa tanned their hide good. Looking back upon it Tom smiled, saying the beating was worth it!

Pilgrimage to Hershey

Catherine Woolsey (photos by S. Ross)

I recently fulfilled one of my Bucket List items and set out on a pilgrimage to the Hershey Swap Meet. My mission was to find a trunk for my 1930 Pierce Arrow. I arrived on Wednesday night October 7, 2015 accompanied by my husband Jim, fellow Pierce-Arrow Society members Carol and Steve Ross, and fellow Packard friends Marjo Miller and Tim Pestotnik. To say the least this event was overwhelming. My first stop on Thursday morning was to the Pierce-Arrow tent where, lo and behold, my eye caught sight of a trunk. After borrowing a tape measure, I was pleasantly surprised that the trunk would fit. My friend Tim negotiated the price and the trunk was mine. My next thought was: How do I get it home? No problem, UPS delivered it to our home in Carlsbad in 3 days.

Steve Ross was able to score tickets to the R&M Auction for the group. The pictures in this article are a few of the Packards at the auction. I was mesmerized by all of the great deals. I had my sights on a 1916 White Touring and was quickly vetoed by my husband since we do not have room to store it. After viewing the cars prior to the auction we made friends with three AACA men showing their two 1937 Oldsmobiles and a 1968 Corvette in the show on Saturday. They were kind enough to take us to the garage to let us view their fine automobiles. On Friday, my buddy Tim led me to a brass Pierce-Arrow "key". According to the owner, this object was used to imprint Pierce-Arrow hubcaps. I made an offer and the key was mine. One thing I forgot to do was to take it out of my carry-on bag at the airport and I was immediately detained so they could investigate the unidentified object picked up by the baggage scanner. Luckily the inspector allowed me to go on my way with my newly purchased treasure.



1949 Packard Station Wagon (I prefer Estate Wagon). It sold for \$60,500 which included buyer and seller fees.



1915 Twin Six at the R&M/Sotheby's Auction. Probably pretty much like the one Henry Joy drove to San Francisco in 1915. Sold for \$170,000 including fees.



As most everyone knows, Packard never made a 1953 Woodie. This Packard was custom built in Costa Rica.



This Packard has a history of transporting Prominent American military heroes.



Difficult to see in this photo but the left photo is Army General Dwight D. Eisenhower. Center photo is Admiral Halsey and on the right is Admiral Nimitz. The photos were taken in 1945 and 1946.



The owner of this Packard is moving to Vista and he has assured us that he will be joining our Packard Club.



The famous Kissmobile which one would expect to see in Hershey.



2016 ACTIVITY PLANNING MEETING

Please join us **January 16, 2016** at the San Diego Police Museum to plan our fun filled 2016 events schedule. If you can't make it just send your ideas to any board member and they will present it for you. We are up for just about anything so long as it is legal, or perhaps even a gray area. We will go to lunch after the meeting at a place TBD.

We will start the meeting at 10:00 AM.

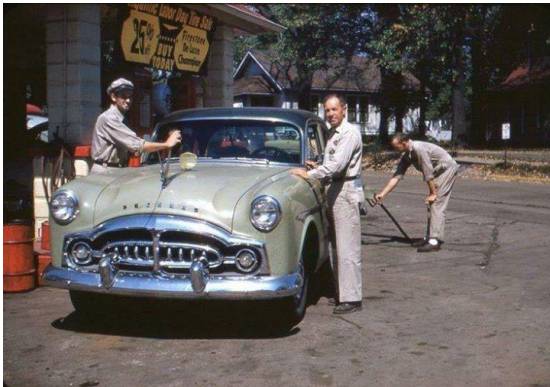
ADDRESS IS: 4710 COLLEGE AVENUE, SAN DIEGO, CA

GOOD OL' DAYS?

Steve Ross



On left: A glance at the way it was back in the day. I am guessing a 1949 Packard Super Eight and a Hudson of the same era getting the full treatment from the Standard Oil Company Station (my first employer). This is, I believe, a company owned station. Standard Oil stations used to sell Atlas Tires, fan belts, radiator hoses, wiper blades motor oil and batteries in addition to all the other automobile related products. They also gave away road maps and usually sold Coca Cola. All the guys were named Bob, Jim or Bill.

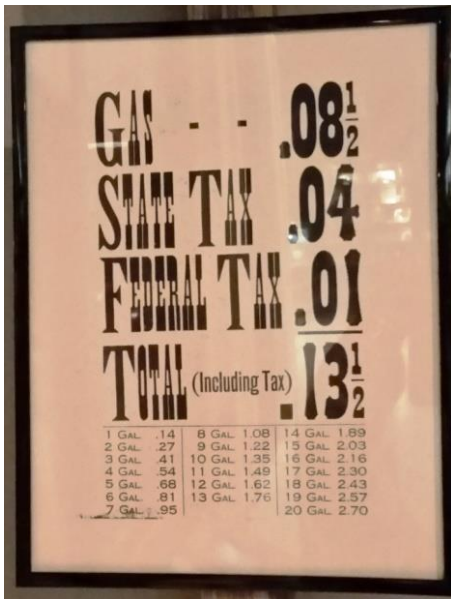


Is a color photo rare for this time period? They are definitely posing for the shot except for the guy pumping gas.



Herb sez: "I can't wait to fire this puppy up and hit the road. Assuming I can mount the dam thing".

It appears to have sort of an engine to propel the machine.



Gas prices back in the day, like way back. Interesting to note that the customer is given a chart of how much it will cost from one to twenty gallons.



Anyone know the year and model Packard? Note the whitewall tires



Remember this? Ice cold no less. I guess those were the days. Ad must be showing it is OK for ladies to grab a shot while on the road.



The worlds very first selfie?



1941 or 1942 Packard. Is that a Hudson in the garage on the right?

SHIELD ON EYEGLASSES PROTECTS THE NOSE

EQUIPPED with a shield that completely covers the nose, these new sun glasses may not impress the beholder as an aid to beauty, but that is what they actually are. The shield protects the wearer's nose from sunburn and consequent redness. A Los Angeles inventor designed it.

Sun glasses with shield that protects the nose from sun

Really! Wonder how many of these were sold? After all a Los Angeles inventor designed it. I wonder how many items are being marketed today that will seem insanely stupid ninety years from now?

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Pay attention to the announcement on your military left. It's time to re-up, boys and girls.

Packards International San Diego Region Membership Renewal

New Procedures

You will be receiving your "PI" renewal form in with the Packards Magazine due early December from Packards Internatinonal.

New procedures to help the San Diego Region:

1. Fill out the renewal form
2. Write a check to: **Packards Int'l – San Diego Region** for \$ 60.00
(Sorry no credit cards)
3. Mail both to:

Karl Ramsing – Membership
1024 Alta Vista Drive
Vista, CA 92084-5520

I will quickly send your renewal form and \$ 45.00 to Packards International for their processing and records.

The reason for this change: I can better track your membership within our club and produce the 2016 Roster earlier than this year (August), and also follow up on those who forget to renew or who misplace the form under other paperwork.

The "PI" office has volumes of work to do. This new method will ease their burden and make things more clear for the San Dieog Region.

Your cooperation with this change will be very helpful.

Karl Ramsing, Membership



**Don't make me
come lookin' for
you!**

**Please help Karl by
renewing your
membership in a
timely manner.**



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

New Membership? _____ Renewal? _____

2016

INTERNATIONAL MOTOR CAR CLUB

Email: Membership@packardsinternational.com

More than a club; a lifestyle

Your Name _____

Address _____

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NOTE: Publications are mailed 3rd Class Mail. The US Postal Service DOES NOT FORWARD 3rd class mail, so you must advise us of any address change. Send a letter or use our email: Membership@packardsinternational.com

Membership Rates: _____ \$45/year U.S. domestic; _____ \$50/year Canada & Mexico; _____ \$65/year all others.

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