



BOMBSIGHT

The Bombsight is published by the Los Angeles Chapter of The Buick Club of America.

The Los Angeles Chapter Logo reflects who we are and what we do. Our members' cars are often used in motion picture and TV productions.



Dedicated to the preservation and restoration of the automobiles built by The Buick Motor Division

Steve's Corner



The Los Angeles Chapter has been asked by Bob Pritchard, the President of the Southern California Region of the Antique Automobile Club of America, to accompany them on a tour of The Picture Car Warehouse. Cathy Feldman, the editor for the AACA local chapter, has provided details for this very special event. This unusual facility is a complete service company supplying automobiles to the motion picture industry. The vehicles are brought to the movie set in the condition specified by the studio and always on time. One might think that this is a simple operation, but keeping batteries available for vehicles to be ready to go requires the purchase of 25 new batteries each month during peak operations. Battery charging goes on daily. Be sure not to miss this special tour. The time and location are given on the insert page of this Bombsight issue.

Read on to see the interesting series of tours and events that we have prepared. Come to the meeting on March 14th and help us establish a schedule that will be convenient for all of us.

MAY 21st

**CHVA
SPRING "FUN"
CAR SHOW**

JUNE

CHINO AIR MUSEUM

JULY

ALL GM CAR SHOW

OLD FASHIONED DAY IN THE PARK

AUGUST

MULLIN AUTOMOTIVE MUSEUM

MARCH

Have your name cast in metal and letterpress printed on the spot.

APRIL

NETHERCUTT COLLECTION

MAY

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY ALL BUICK SHOW

SEPTEMBER

CREVIER COLLECTION

LYON AIR MUSEUM

OCTOBER

THE ART ASTOR COLLECTION

A SHOW OF HANDS IS NOT A COMMITMENT

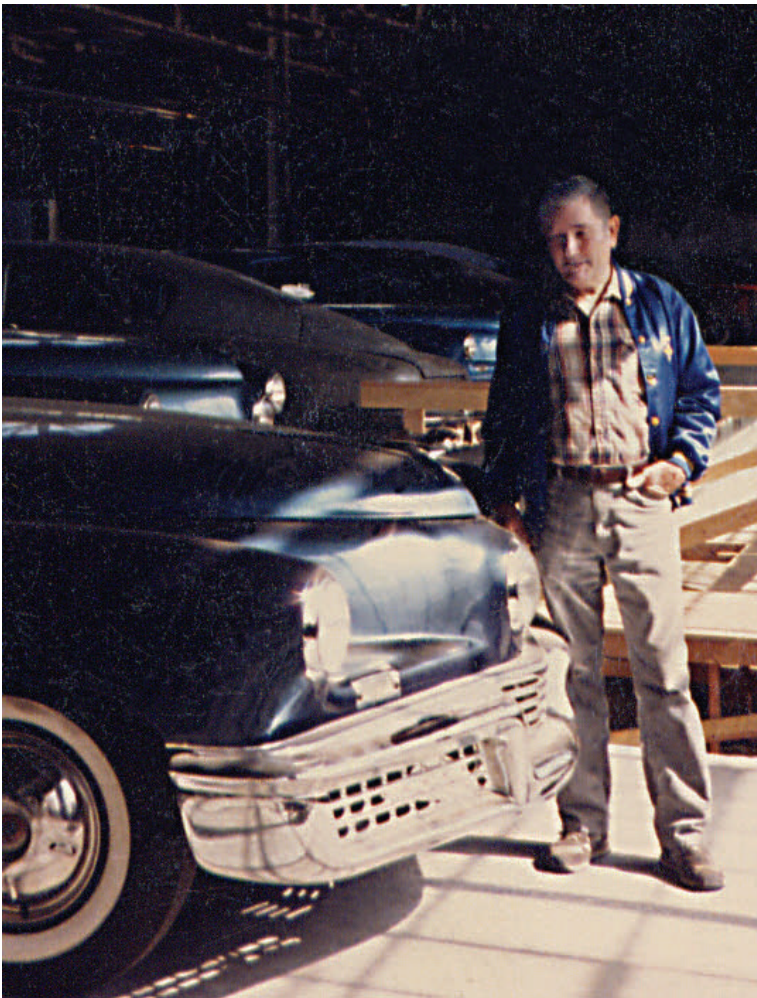
In the last few years I have seen many interesting tours and events take place. Although there was always a healthy show of hands, many of these tours were poorly attended. The successful events seemed to call for a definite commitment. Often a small deposit or a renewal of membership provided a commitment. At the March 14 meeting I propose we vote to establish some form of guarantee of participation in the tours and events listed above.



1953 Buick Skylark Convertible / Owner Tom Sparks



2012 Buick Verano



TOM SPARKS DEAD AT AGE 84

Tom Sparks died quietly, in his sleep, at his home in North Hollywood on Thursday, February 17, 2011. He is survived by his wife Laura of 62 years, 2 daughters; Jennifer and Barbara, and 2 grandchildren; Lacey and Cody.

A private funeral following his death was attended by the family and a few of his closest friends.

At one point in his life, this quiet, unassuming man was a bicycle racer. After the Second World War, however, automobile racing and automobiles in general, became a very important part of his life. Tom's mechanical creativity quickly came to the fore, as he designed his own race cars and drove them in major events all up and down the Pacific Coast. This competitive spirit held him in good stead with all the early racing equipment producers in the Southern California area. They all knew and revered Tom Sparks.

He began to collect his favorite cars as a hobby until his shop was so crowded that he bought, without seeing it, a piece of property that included a house for Laura and him plus three adjacent buildings to house his cars. These cars he rented to the studios, because they were, indeed, rare. An example is the 1935 Pierce Arrow, shown in the movie *The Sting* with Paul Newman and Robert Redford.

You will have a chance to see the open-wheeled race car that Tom designed and drove and meet many of the old time racing equipment producers at the Tom Sparks Memorial at the Petersen Museum on the 27th of March. The details will be made available by the next LA Chapter meeting.

TOM SPARKS CLONED TUCKERS...A LOT OF 'EM

At Lucas Films, on or about March of 1986 the following conversation between Francis Ford Copolla and Tom Sparks probably took place:

FFC: Tom, I know you're the guy who can provide me with what I need. I want to walk down a production line of thirty Tucker automobiles for my next picture. You can do that, can't you?

TS: Yeah, I can do that, but I'll need at least one to start with.

FFC: Well, where can you get one?

TS: How about yours?

FFC: Mine? Do you really need mine?

TS: Gotta start with something.

That was the beginning of 18 of the most challenging months in Tom Sparks' life. Copolla had chosen one of the most resourceful automotive experts in the restoration business to do what the studio special effects group could not duplicate.



A faux production line was created by Tom Sparks for the film *Tucker: The Man and His Dream*.

By producing the Fiberglass bodies and front ends (pictured below) and painting them various colors, Tom Sparks was able to create the appearance of 51 Tucker automobiles driven to the courthouse (pictured below). The first five were running Tuckers; the remaining faux cars were being towed.



Special private tour

Special private tour

PICTURE CAR

Special private tour



Special private tour

WAREHOUSE

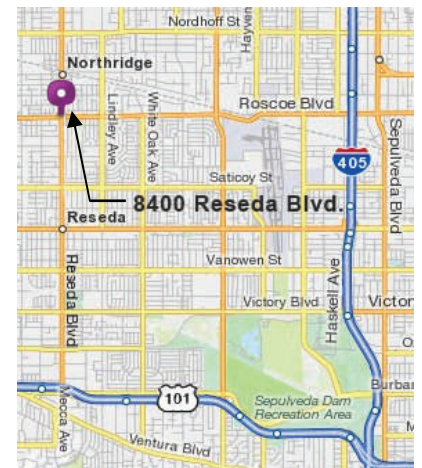
Saturday, March 12, 10:30 am

THE PICTURE CAR WAREHOUSE

8400 Reseda Boulevard, Northridge



is one of Hollywood's most complete motion picture vehicle facilities with a large inventory of automobiles from the 1920's to the present including muscle cars, period cars, police cars, and emergency vehicles. We have been invited to tour these facilities at 10:30 on Saturday, March 12th, to see this fine collection of rental cars. Also, at 12:30 pm, at 8000 Deering Ave., which is a location farther north on Reseda Blvd., we will be shown their body shop, mechanical shop, fabrication department, and upholstery shop. If requested, they will take pictures of your cars and keep them on file for commercials or movies.



FRIENDS AND MEMBERS OF OTHER CLUBS MAY JOIN US
RSVP Joel Feldman (310-471-8503)
by Wednesday for a hosted lunch!