



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 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

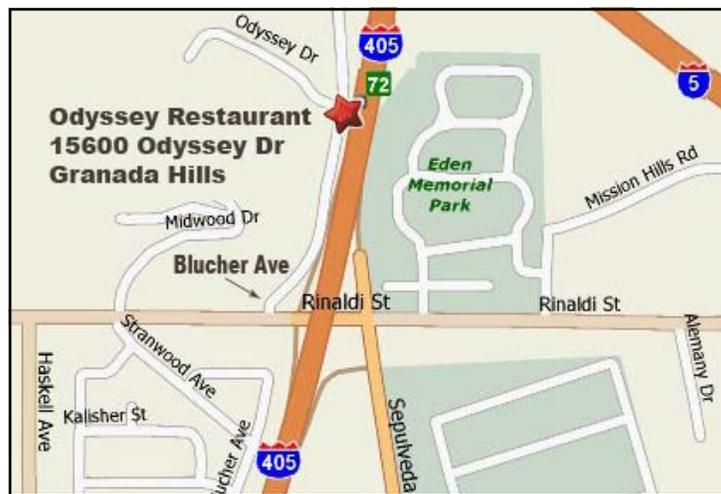
Joel Rothman and Richard Konigsberg have made arrangements for the Christmas party to be held at the Odyssey restaurant in Granada Hills. These gala plans, including door



prizes, will be available on Sunday evening, December 21, 2008. Soon after 6 o'clock, hors d'oeuvres will be served and wine will be included with dinner. Richard must receive an accurate number in order to provide a delightful dinner to members and their guests. He has received 42 requests and several \$15.00 checks from those members who would like to join us. If you wish to be included, please call Richard by December 4th. After the 4th the price goes to \$30.00. per person. The map to the right should help us all arrive at the Odyssey Restaurant on time.

Steve Roth

It is with extreme sadness that I announce the passing of Robert Thornton. He and his brother Tom were regulars at our monthly meetings. Bob could be called on to provide the kind of tweaking that was necessary to keep those 1940 engines purring. He will be sorely missed by all our members.



The 1953 Motorama - Where Everybody Came to Look at the New Cars

Right after WWII most of the new cars were warmed over '41 and '42 automobiles. At the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York, the new-car-starved populace could get a look at what General Motors had planned for them at the *Motorama*. They loved it. The Wildcats I, II and III showed the way. These daring futuristic models captured the imagination of 300,000 admiring visitors in the first 7 days. They lined up 3 abreast, clear around the block.



The Wildcat I's "roto-static" wheel covers sit still while the wheel turns. The wheel covers' front-facing scoop blows cool air on the disc brakes at all times while moving. Note the inset above. Several of the *Motorama* cars were cut up and destroyed, because the GM lawyers insisted that these experimental cars should never get into the hands of the public.

The guys in the Design and Experimental Engineering Departments, many of whom had worked all through Christmas before the January showing, put up a hue and cry to protect the drivable cars. As a result many were saved and put into the Heritage Museum and the Buick Gallery at Flint.



Some of the cut up cars have been meticulously restored and are a part of the Joe Bortz Auto Collection. The largest group that has ever been seen was assembled at Pebble Beach for the Concours d'Elegance and GM's 100th Anniversary. On the insert page of this issue are pictures of some of the original *Motorama* cars, featuring the Wildcat II and the Firebirds I, II, and III, all brought to you by Edward T. Welburn.



1955 Buick Roadmaster Convertible / asking price \$145,000



At The Concours d'Elegance, a 1955 Buick Roadmaster Convertible / asking price \$145,000,00

PEBBLE BEACH
TOUR D'ELEGANCE
3RD WEEK IN AUGUST

PEBBLE BEACH

CONCOURS d'ELEGANCE

PEBBLE BEACH
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PEBBLE BEACH

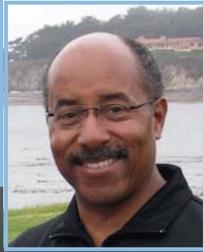
CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE

Photo Credit: Howard Branner



Ed Welburn and the GM design staff produced the Aerotech car for Oldsmobile. 3 time Indy winner, A.J. Foyt, drove it 257 mph in Texas.

I was 8 years old when I first saw this dream machine. I knew then that I had to become a designer at General Motors. The enthusiastic response and energy that comes from just being around these gorgeous automobiles is magical.



Edward T. Welburn is now GM Vice President of Global Design and brought these *Motorama* cars to Pebble Beach for all to enjoy.



Cadillac Cyclone

Ed Welburn always expresses endless praise for the work of his design predecessors, most notably, Harley Earl, William Mitchell, and Charles Jordan. Welburn says, diplomatically, that he likes all their *Motorama* cars for different reasons. Undoubtedly, these are among his all-time favorites. The three cars below look to be years ahead of time, yet some of them were designed and built over 50 years ago.



Astro I 1957 Bill Mitchell



Centurion 1956 Chuck Jordan



Le Sabre 1951 Harley Earl



Firebird III



Firebird I



Firebird II



Wildcat II



Chevrolet Biscayne



Pontiac Parisienne



XP 300 1951



Pontiac Bonneville



XP 300 1951



Cadillac Le Mans



Oldsmobile 88



Stingray