

My Introduction to CHVA by Jim Lucas AKA Chief Right Wing

It all began in 1968, when I came into possession of a copy of a Hemmings magazine. After reading it from cover to cover, the smoldering embers of my love affair with the cars of my boyhood days burst into flames. After about a year of talking about old cars, my wife, figuring that I was going through the mid-life crazies, said that if I wanted one I should look for one.

About a month later when I came home driving a 1938 Buick, she rolled her eyes and told me to have fun! It didn't take long to notice that it drew a lot of attention when I took it anywhere. From time to time I'd talk Ida into going with me when we went shopping or on some other errand. She wouldn't admit it, but she knew that it was a crowd pleaser.

Our house had a two car garage and a driveway big enough to park two more cars, side by side. With a work bench, home maintenance equipment (ladder, paint buckets, rollers, etc), gardening and pool supplies along with suitcases, Christmas decorations, etc, there was only enough room left in the garage for the family stationwagon. The result was that my "go to work car" and the Buick had to be parked in the driveway. This arrangement indirectly led to the CHVA.

One Saturday afternoon a fellow stopped at my house to look at my Buick. He told me that he lived a couple of blocks away and owned a 1940 Ford and that his neighbor owned a 1956 Buick. He drove to his house, and I followed him in my Buick. His name was Bob Shuman and his neighbor was Dick Mosher. They were both members of a national "Old car club" that had a local region. We talked about old cars for a while, and they invited me to the next club meeting. Then I went on my way and forgot all about it.

Some time later, while attending a car show, I again met those two, along with Al Newman who was President of CHVA and founder of the So-Cal Region. We had such a good time that I joined the club that day, not knowing that I would be involved in it for the rest of my life!

At first I was only interested in club meetings and car shows. However, I was elected to the So-Cal board of directors and served in most of the positions, including 8 years as Editor of the newsletter. A few years later I was elected to the CHVA National board and served several terms, filling several positions including President. All of this was done not in the line of duty but as a labor of love.

Once Ida became interested in taking trips in our old cars, we attended many CHVA National and Mini Tours and related events. We even planned and led two National Tours. Truth be known, Ida did most of the work and I took the credit and blamed her for anything that went wrong!

Of all of the joys of CHVA experiences, the greatest of them is the people we have met. By using the CHVA Roster and searching through issues of the AEV, we were able to identify more than 200 people. Many of them we met only once or twice at CHVA events. However,

a great many of them we would see year after year on the 20 plus National and Mini Tours we've attended.

Then there is a group of about 15 couples with whom we keep in contact all year. Also, There are 4 couples of us who have been married more than 60 years. One time our anniversary came when we were on a Mini Tour and we all celebrated it together!

CHVA has provided us with many lifelong friends. Sadly to say, about a dozen such friends are now deceased.

CHVA is Family!