

# Going for the Gold, Olympic Artists



The 1984 Olympics, as they were in Los Angeles, are the ones I remember most. Not just because of the sporting events, but also because of [Los Angeles Freeway murals](#) like the one above. They were just a small part of the Olympic Arts Festival which hosted 145 performing arts companies and 1500 international artists who took part in more than 400 performances, exhibitions, and events. Over 1.2 million people attended. These were official Olympic events, as were the sports, but it was not competitive.

I recently learned, however, that when the Olympics were held in Los Angeles, back in 1932, there had been an arts competition, and the familiar gold, silver, and bronze medals were similarly presented to the winning artists.

The organizing committee, headed by William Mellors "Bill" Henry, who stepped away temporarily



as an editor for the Los Angeles Times, wanted to promote Los Angeles as a world class city.

Los Angeles was looking for significance beyond being the movie studio's tinsel-town. In ten years, the city had grown from tenth largest in the US with fewer people than Pittsburg, to fifth largest. The now iconic 452 foot high city hall building had just opened in 1928, and because of the height ordinance capping all other buildings at 13 stories or 150 feet, (until it was overturned in 1958) The city would not be crowded with skyscrapers. Hollywood Bowl was a dozen years old, but was in danger of closing due to the economic hardships of the Great Depression.

The goal was to broaden the Olympics to more of a World's Fair atmosphere and encourage visitors with all types of interests to visit the city. Leila Mechlin, the Director of the art competition, was quite conservative in screening works that did not meet a sport-content criteria. She disqualified a satirical piece called

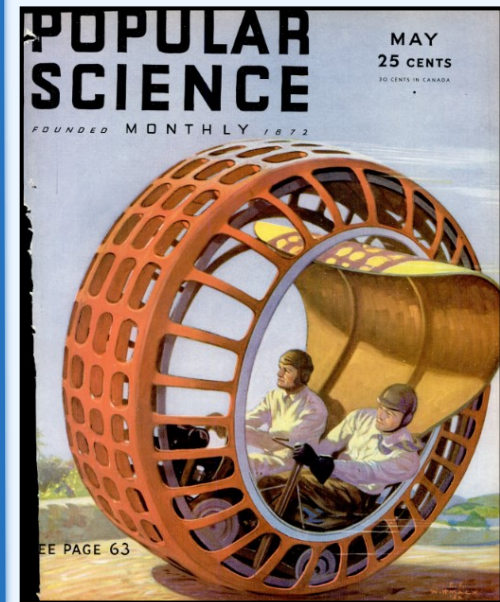
"Historranner" by a Polish sculptor that took aim at Mussolini and his efforts to use sport as a surrogate and harbinger of war.

In the end, the art competition was not nearly as memorable as the sports. We remember, Buster Crabbe (Tarzan, Flash

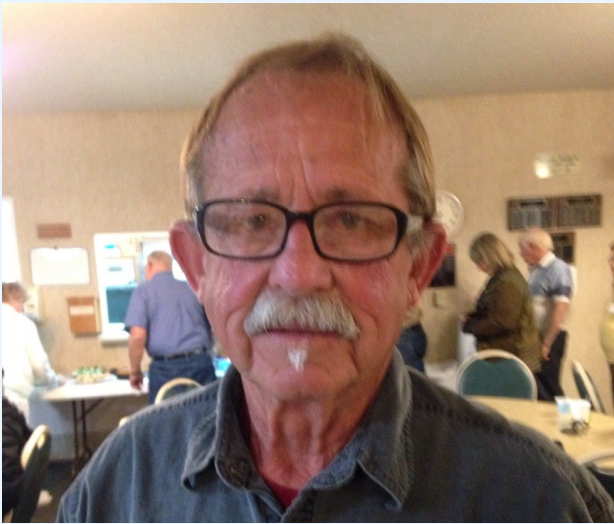
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# The Message from President Ed



July's meeting started late again as lively conversation is hard to interrupt and there is still no clock on the wall to remind us of the time. Nevertheless, we got down to business quickly and covered all the necessary subjects. Twenty-five members were in attendance. Linda Thamer, our secretary, could not make the meeting, so Mark Greenlee, our own V. P. assumed the notetaking duties and the meeting was over in no time.

The big item this month was a proposed donation to the park for the use of the clubhouse. A motion was forwarded and seconded to donate \$250.00 toward the cause. Fred Slikker stepped up immediately and matched this amount. So, all totaled, \$500.00 will be now offered to the park for their kindness. Mark Greenlee volunteered to contact Sandy Wagner to finalize the offering. The current word from Mark is that he spoke to Sandy and she in turn will contact the social committee for gift guidance.

David Frazee, our short tour coordinator, was not in attendance as he stayed home awaiting the birth of his first grandchild. It might be a good idea to check out our website occasionally for a fast-breaking scoop.



(The scoop) Sebastian E. Frazee

Greg's treasurer's report reported a gain, suggesting that we are flush with money and need to spend some on ourselves. Keep thinking. Bruce Howe reminded the group of a fun activity we participated in

long ago at Heritage Park in Oceanside. I will report back at August's meeting. It seems that ice cream might be involved. After another successful raffle, we adjourned at 7:45 to enjoy refreshments and more car talk. Thanks again to all who make this happen.



..... Now back to my jerky journey in a roadster pickup.... The Saturday morning the San Diego Union Tribune come out, I had something important to do. I can't remember what it was, but I rushed home and emptied the mattress pad of some moldy cash I had stashed for such an unlikely occasion, called the guy, and he still had it, got the address, sped off to Escondido fully knowing that cash and timing are always the essence of a good car deal. There it was, a 29 roadster pickup. It was surrounded with cardboard boxes full of removed parts and the body was suspended about 4" above the frame rails

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Minutes of the July Meeting

**Call To Order:** The July 6, 2022 meeting of the Palomar Model A Ford Club was called to order by President Ed Simpson at 7:00 p.m. We had 25 Club members in attendance.

**Minutes:** Linda Thamer was not in attendance. We had a motion from Anthony Lugo to approve the minutes from the June meeting, and after a second motion, the Club approved the minutes.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Greg Wilson told us of the June banking activity and bank balance. Greg asked for approval to pay the Secretary of State corporation dues of \$25. Chuck Grabowsky gave a motion to both approve the report and to pay this bill, and after a second motion, the Club members approved.

**Visitors, Sunshine and Sorrow:** Howard Kruegel is doing well after his carotid artery surgery.

**Short Tour Report:** David was not in attendance, and we do not have a Monday tour planned. An Ice Cream Social is scheduled at Heritage Square in Oceanside in September. We have attended in the past. This will be discussed in August.

**Long Tour Report:** The next long tour planned is the Orcutt tour. This tour will take in the Santa Maria A's All Ford Swap Meet on September 10th. It would be a four-day tour leaving on the 8<sup>th</sup>. We have two families signed up so far. The National Meet in Kerrville, Texas was in mid-June, and temperatures were in the 100s.

**Vice President's Report:** Mark Greenlee did double duty and took the notes for

the minutes of the meeting this evening, as Linda was not in attendance.

**Reflector Director's Report:** David Frazee was not in attendance.

**Membership:** This position is vacant.

**Tech Director:** No report this month.

**Public Relations:** Barbara Kruegel was not in attendance, but we were published in the San Diego Union Tribune.

**Correspondence:** No correspondence this month.

**Old Business:** As we had discussed this item before, it was mentioned that Encinitas is planning a car show on July 21. The Club made no formal plans to attend.

**New Business:** It was proposed to donate an amount to Palomar Estates East in appreciation for letting us use the Clubhouse for our meetings. Ed Simpson will contact Sandy Wagner. Fred Slikker proposed an amount of \$250 donation, which he would personally match. Bruce Howe made a motion to give \$250 with a second by Clyde Marion, and the motion passed. Ed will also ask Sandy about having breakfast pre-tour again.

**Hospitality:** Anthony Lugo thanked Mark Greenlee and Ed Simpson, who brought refreshments to tonight's meeting.

**Raffle:** The Velascos conducted the raffle. Clyde Marion won the attendance prize. We did not have any July birthdays.

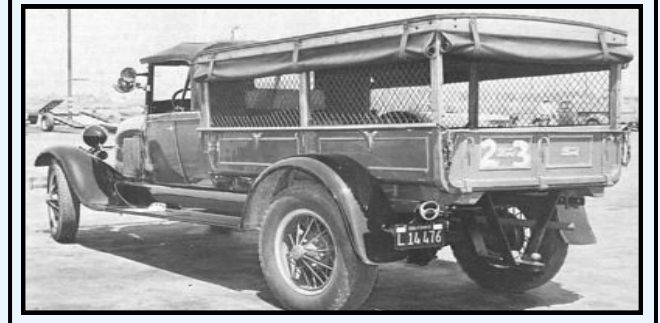
**Adjournment:** There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Mark Greenlee, with Linda Thamer typing the notes.

## Ed's Story—Continued

dangling from the rafters of a tidy garage on nylon strapping.

As the owner related, the truck was an inheritance from grandpa and had been dragged out of a shed in an orange grove in Escondido. The title couldn't be found and to transfer ownership, the number had to be verified. The kicker is the frame number rests below the driver's side fender and splash apron. To get to it, the body must be raised, too. Then the CHP had to come out, confirm the old number, and reissue a new one. The new number had been neatly pop-riveted to the firewall. Further conversation with the owners indicated this was a father-son project intended to revive grandpa's grove truck. Looking around the garage and sensing the owner's eagerness to sell, I could tell this project had gone a bit beyond bonding. A well-scrubbed motorhome was parked outside, ready to reclaim its territory. Upon thorough inspection, the Model A appeared to be complete, not pounded out, or primered. While not "cherry" by any means, it screamed of honest wear... I made an offer, was countered by another, and we finally agreed upon a final number. It gets better... stay tuned... Ed.



## Olympic Artists—continued



Gold medal winner, David Wallin of Sweden for his "At the Seaside of Arild"

Gordon), Babe Didrikson, **Jim Ball**, the Canadian sprinter who won a bronze in the 4X400 relay, and **Richard Allen**, the gold medal Indian field hockey goalie on whom the US team scored but one goal—during which he was off signing autographs. The game ended 24 to 1.

L.A. 1932 also innovated with the building of an Olympic Village (for men only) due to a hotel shortage, the fact that it ran only 18 days instead of weeks (due to the Depression), and the familiar ceremony of standing on raised platforms to receive your medal at the venue while your country's national anthem is played. 1.5 million tickets were sold.



Silver medal winner, Ruth Miller of Los Angeles for her work "Struggle."

Compared to this, the arts competition, focusing as strongly as they were at exclusively displaying amateur artists, the participants were relatively difficult to research. It also ran longer, starting with the sports on July 30th but ending on the 31st of August. 384,000 people attended. There were several folks involved with

Southern California connections, and here are their stories.

**R**uth Miller (Kempster) (1904-1978) the silver medalist was a local art teacher born in Chicago but moved to SoCal. She began her art studies by taking a correspondence course, and fell in love with

## Olympic Organizer



painting. She feigned a nervous breakdown to avoid being sent to Vassar, and instead was sent to family out west where she attended art schools in Los Angeles near her uncle's ranch. She continued her studies in New York and the L' École des Beaux Arts in Paris. She left Paris because the school did not allow unmarried female students to work from nude models and moved to Florence, where she studied mural and fresco techniques

and met an Italian artist whom she followed to Rome. Her parents frowned on that and brought her back to California, where she was soon married to Henry Fracker. Soon after winning the medal, she was hired as an instructor at the Pasadena School of Fine Arts. She was once in a show with Escondido artist, Lewis Ryan. After divorcing Fracker, she married Fred Clapp and moved to Ojai.

(Continued on page 6)



MISS LEILA MECHLIN, GENERAL DIRECTOR

**B**orn May 29, 1874, to two Washington DC artists, Leila Mechlin, was also the granddaughter of one of the founding engravers of the Bureau of Engraving. Believing that she was destined to be an artist herself, she studied at the Corcoran School of Art.

However, her skill was more as an art critic, and she began writing for *The Evening Star* (DC) in 1900. Mechlin was a cofounder of the American Federation of Arts in 1909,

along with figures like Andrew Mellon, J. P. Morgan and Presidents William Howard Taft and Theodore Roosevelt. She was the editor of its official magazine *Art and Progress* (later titled *Magazine of Art*) from 1909 to 1931 and was the AFA's executive secretary from 1923 to 1933.

The AFA was intended to promote American art and particularly the touring of American art exhibitions to more remote parts of the United States. Towards that end, Melchin arranged and managed many art exhibitions, with several traveling displays sent on tour under her sponsorship. This made her the natural choice to arrange the art competitions at the Los Angeles Olympics.

Originally, she was only in charge of the American Art wing, but after Olympic organizer General Charles H. Sherrill was appointed Ambassador to Turkey, she became the director of the entire International Exhibition of Art in connection with the Tenth Olympiad at Los Angeles in 1932.

Sherrill had made waves by contacting arts groups throughout Europe saying that he was *scouting* for the event, which upset the individual national Olympic committees as they alone were to make the choices and send the representatives. It's possible that his ambassadorial appointment was a face-saving move to relieve him of his duties.

The gold medal for water color was won by Lee Everett Blair for his work titled "Rodeo." Sadly, the original work has been lost and all that remains is the black and white photograph of it above.

Blair was born on October 11, 1911 in Los Angeles, CA to a family of architects and contractors. While attending Polytechnic High School, he and his brother Preston (1908-1995), were encouraged to pursue art and were awarded scholarships to attend the prominent Chouinard Art Institute in Los Angeles.

It was there in 1931 that he met his future wife Mary. Growing in notoriety earned him the role of president of the California Watercolor Society. In 1938, Lee and Mary, along with Walt and Lillian Disney, went on a goodwill sketching tour to South America that was sponsored by FDR's Good Neighbor Policy. This trip influenced the animated films: *Saludos Amigos* and *The Three Caballeros*. Lee is credited with designing the character José Carioca and developing the look and story of the *Fantasia* segment for the "Toccata and Fugue in D Minor"

Mary Blair's work, with its vibrant colors, is far more familiar to us as she produced story boards, murals, and set designs for the Disney Company including *Peter Pan*, *Song of the South*, *Tomorrowland*, and *It's a Small World*.

Dr. Reginald Harkness Poland was one of the judges of the competition. He was the first director of the San Diego

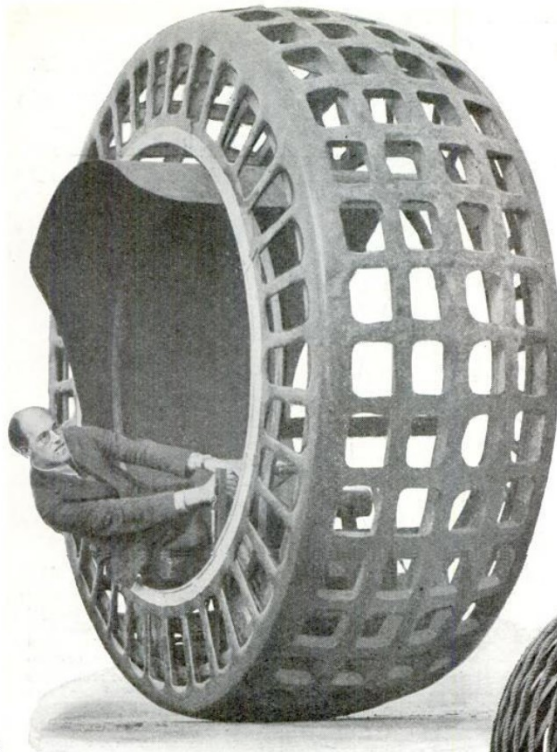


Each participant in the 1932 Olympics was presented with this bronze medal

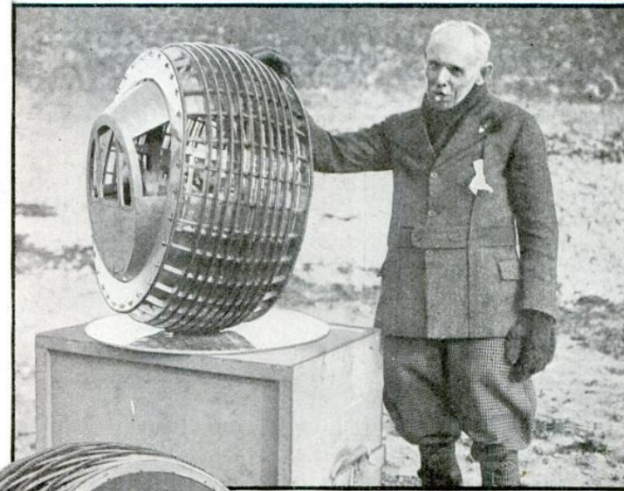
Fine Arts Gallery in Balboa Park, from the founding Feb 28, 1926 through 1950, Poland instituted programs to foster appreciation of the arts for both children and adults through free artistic demonstrations by local artists and a series of free Sunday lectures given by critics, historians, and artists.

He traveled all over southern California promoting fine art, speaking at elementary schools and arranging for photo prints to be given to institutions so common people would have the experience of being inspired by art generally reserved to the wealthy.

### AMAZING MOTOR-DRIVEN HOOP MAY BE CAR OF THE FUTURE



In the unicycle, the operator sits inside the wheel, which revolves around him. He steers by leaning to side. Photo shows inventor's son driving the car



Above, Dr. J. H. Purves, English inventor of the unicycle, with a model of the car. At left, small electrically-driven wheel for one passenger



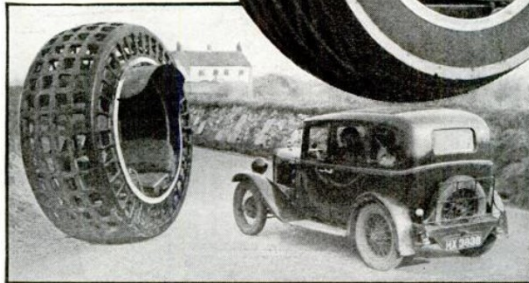
remaining upright on a roller-mounted carriage with the driver's seat, transmits its power to the inner rim of the hoop.

Witnesses of this extraordinary demonstration, which took place recently, saw that a gasoline motor of only two-and-a-half horsepower was sufficient to run the thousand-pound wheel. Another smaller motor hoop was demonstrated, run by electricity. At present the machines are admittedly crude; the driver steers, for example, by leaning to one side and thus tipping the wheel slightly toward the direction in which he wishes to go. But Dr. Purves exhibits a working model to show the one-wheeled vehicle that he visions on future highways.

In this "dynasphere," as he calls it, passengers will sit within an inclosed cabin that remains upright while the tread revolves around it. The tread's curved surface has the shape of a section cut from a sphere. To steer the vehicle, the driver operates gears that shift the cabin to one side or the other, tipping the wheel and thus directing its course.

**A**TEN-FOOT hoop of iron latticework chug-chugs along an English highway. Passing motorists slow down, and pause to peer at the apparition. The man inside it is driving as unconcernedly as if he were out for a Sunday airing.

Later the same strange hoop is put through its paces on the beach at Brea Sands, near Weston-Super-Mare, England, before a crowd of spectators. With a speed that is astonishing in view of its ungainly appearance, the wheel goes spinning along the sands at a thirty-mile-an-hour clip. When it has come to a stop, the driver and inventor, Dr. J. H. Purves, steps from it and declares he has just demon-



Present and future? The unicycle meets an auto on the highway

strated an experimental model of the high-speed vehicle of the future. By substituting one wheel for the four wheels of the conventional automobile, he maintains that he has reduced locomotion to the simplest possible form, with consequent economy of power. The motor,

**A**fter many years of enjoyment it's time to pass our 1930 Model A Coupe along to someone else. We are asking a discounted \$16,900.00 CASH to anyone either in or referred thru the club.

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If interested contact us thru e-mail [davarb55@gmail.com](mailto:davarb55@gmail.com) or phone 760-913-5184. Dave & Arlene Belt



## August Lunch Tour to Charlie's



**L**unch Tour Date: Monday, August 8

Meeting time: 10:15 AM @ Palomar Estates East Parking Lot

Destination: Charlie's Restaurant @ 11:15

Address: 210 North Ivy Street, Escondido

Charlie Mitich has been in the restaurant business in Escondido for 47 years. He along with his daughter Susie have been at this location since 1992. Charlie's Family Restaurant is a family-owned and operated business. We know the importance of delicious food at affordable prices.

Monday lunch specials include:

Pot Roast

Spaghetti with Meat Sauce

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Chicken Strips with Fries

Roast Pork w. Dressing & Mashed Potatoes

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### Paradise Valley Model A Ford Club

## Antique Car Swap Meet

Saturday ONLY  
September 24, 2022  
6:00am to 3:00pm

**Vendors Selling Space info:**  
20 x 20 space \$30 - Additional 10 x 20 space \$15 each  
Car "For Sale" space \$15

**Location:**  
Little League Western Region Headquarters  
6707 N. Little League Drive  
San Bernardino, CA 92407

**For information:**  
PVMAFC.org  
PVMAFC@gmail.com  
Richard Bronstrup  
909.658.5914



# AUGUST 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
90th Anniversary of the Los Angeles Olympics Opening Ceremony 	1	2	3 Club Meeting at 7 PM	4 Joe Williams	5	6 Debra Kruegel
7	8	9	10 Henry ♥ Gerrie Rivera	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 Carla Hibbard	22	23 Pete Peterson	24	25 Jim Kruegel	26	27
28 Chuck ♥ Nedra Grabowsky	29 Serieta Harrell	30	31 Bonnie Fiebke			

**2022 Palomar Model A Ford Club Board:**

President 760-439-9103  
*Ed Simpson*  
Vice President 760-731-2501  
*Mark Greenlee*  
Treasurer 760-525-8993  
*Greg Wilson*  
Secretary 760-586-6554  
*Linda Thamer*  
Long Tour Dir. 858-692-4309  
*Bruce Howe*  
Short Tour Dir. 760-822-9523  
Committee  
Reflector Editor 760-822-9523  
*David Frazee*  
Public Relations 619-981-6523  
*Barbara Kruegel*  
Hospitality 760-650-5333  
*Donna & Anthony Lugo*  
Membership 760-729-4865  
Vacant  
Raffle Chair 760-798-4642  
*Jon & Anna Velasco*  
Librarians 949-492-4255  
*John & Judy Burrell*  
Tech. Director 760-439-9103  
Committee  
Web Master 951-696-0323  
*Sheila Saxman*

**PALOMAR MODEL A CLUB**  
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Carlsbad, CA 92010  
Phone: 760-729-4865  
Email: frazeelntree@hotmail.com



The Palomar A's Club was founded in 1960 as a MARC affiliate, and elected Henry Jenkins as its first president for 1961. In 1963 it became a chapter of the Model A Ford Club of America, 250 South Cypress, La Habra CA 90631. Members of the club are encouraged to also join the national organization. Member registration and dues payment for MAFCA is available on [www.MAFCA.dfm](http://www.MAFCA.dfm) Palomar dues are \$20 per year



**General meetings** are held the first Wednesday of each month at the Palomar Estates East Clubhouse: 650 S Rancho Santa Fe Rd, San Marcos, CA. The doors open at 6:30 pm for social time and the meeting starts at 7:00pm. All Model A hobbyists are welcome to attend. Tours, shows, seminars, and social events are regularly scheduled throughout the year.

**The Reflector** is published in Escondido, CA after the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month with item deadlines on the 15<sup>th</sup>. For questions or to advertise on **The Reflector**, contact the editor, David Frazee at [frazeelntree@hotmail.com](mailto:frazeelntree@hotmail.com)

August, 2022

# The Reflector

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