

# THE REFLECTOR

Newsletter of the Palomar Model A Ford Club  
September, 2023 : Volume 51, Number 9

## LIVING COAST



What a surprise we had on last Saturday's tour. We've lived here for years, and yet never heard of this 'environmental education center' located in Chula Vista. We had a very nice turnout at the Clubhouse on Saturday morning, yet very few Model A's wanted to brave the unknown traffic. Three A's arrived, but we had 19 members show up to take part. It was a sunny day, and luckily not too hot. Joe Williams lead the tour, and was quite prepared with directions down to our location.



The drive down was uneventful, and we all got on a transport bus to take us to the center. The land around is a marsh and a wildlife refuge and they

try to keep it that way. After visiting out front until our docent arrived, we got to go into a very well-done museum. There were marine animals, animals and bird exhibits to wander through and look at. Snakes and reptiles! Plenty of sea turtles,

*(Continued on page 6)*

# ***PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE***

Howdy Everyone;

It's me again here to entertain you for a couple minutes or seconds depending on how fast you read ☺. I have exciting news. My 1931 pickup truck is officially on the road! Technically not legal yet but I have driven it locally several miles without incident. In the process of working on the ABOMB I found myself having to crawl under the truck probably close to a hundred times. In my mind that is a hundred sit-ups. That's not bad for an old guy. I will mention there were a few times on a hot day the cool concrete felt pretty good and I might have lingered with my eyes closed for a spell. Despite my dedication to my truck and my sit-up routine, I still possess my one pack belly, just five short of the ever elusive six pack abdomen.

Now that my truck is running let's get together and go for a drive! I will throw together a picnic for our September tour. I think a pot luck would be fun. I have a portable BBQ and a griddle I can bring. Place and date to be determined. Please attend the meeting if you can, and we can organize who will bring what.

I need ideas and help for our October tour. Step up and help us get together for a drive and some entertainment. If it sounds intimidating, it really isn't. I recruit Ed Simpson as my wing man note taker. If you need help with a tour idea, call a club member to help out.

The year is screaming past us and it's already late August. Time to start thinking about our Christmas installation dinner. Greg Wilson has already lined up the Hunter for us. Please bring a check to the meeting to lock in your spot at the table.

I have a pleasant surprise to announce at our meeting on September 6. Bee there or bee square.

Mark

# ***MINUTES FROM AUGUST***

Meeting of the Palomar A's was called to order by President, Mark Greenlee at 7:00 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ed Simpson.

A motion was made by David Frazee to approve the minutes of the July meeting, and seconded by Bruce Parker. Motion carried.

Bruce Furbush read balance in Treasury. Bill was given earlier Print Pros for publication of Reflector. Bruce then told of \$3 charge being made by B of A for monthly statement. He is going to try to have B of A eliminate those charges. David Frazee made a motion to pay the bills, seconded by Keith Thamer. Motion carried.

There were no visitors this month. Joe Williams



reported Howard Kruegel had surgery on his other knee and is doing well.

Mark then talked about the upcoming tours and events, and asked Jim Ball to report on the trip to the Barrio Glass works. Jim reported it was a really nice trip to the Coast, with a good turnout of members and owner had good tour planned for the group. Mark reported on the Long Beach Swap Meet which several members went to and bought parts. There were quite a few Model T's at this event. David Frazee reported on the tour to Cruisin Grand in Escondido. Good turn out of members, in spite of the heat. Rudy Perez won a prize for his 31 Model A and Bob Payne won for his 36 Coupe. David also reported on the Estate

# ***MINUTES CONTINUED***

Sale held from a deceased member of the San Diego Club. A number of people from Palomar A's went and bought parts.

Joe Williams then talked about the tour he will be leading to the Living Coast in Chula Vista. This tour will be August 5, 2023, and the Club will meet at the Palomar Estates at 8:30 AM, leaving at 9:00 AM. There will be 20 free passes for the club that Barbara Kruegel has secured. After the tour, there will be a patio picnic at Barbara and Howard Kruegel's house.

Jim Ball suggested that if the Club is interested, it will be the 100 year anniversary of the Vista Irrigation District on September 9th and members could tour the headquarters at 1391 Engineer Street, Vista and attend the party 10 to 1. Also, Bruce Howe will be leading a trip to a truck show at Bates Nut Farm on Sunday, September 17, (held 8 AM to 12:30). More details at the September meeting. Mark announced that there will be a Blue Grass Antique Gas and Steam Festival on August 8 – 20. Cost is a little pricey, but if you are interested in going, see Mark. Also, the Paradise Valley Swap Meet in San Bernardino will be September 30. Mark will be organizing a picnic in October to be held in San Dieguito Park. More details at the next meeting.

Bruce Howe then talked about his tour to Northern Indiana and Southwestern Michigan. It was a 20 day trip, and he traveled 5800 miles. He did trailer his model A, so not all the miles were in the truck. He went to Hickory Corners and the Gilmore Museum, which were highlights of the trip for him, although there were about 15 museums featured in the trip. Only problem he had with his Model A was the brakes, and temporarily losing his phone. Thanks to his grandson for locating it at one of the Amish farms. There were approximately 80 cars on this tour.

David Frazee reported they had a meeting of the SCRG committee. One of the San Diego members, Ray, has decided to continue to be on committee. The MAFCA board are seeking to get SCRG help in arranging a cruise from San Diego to Cabo San Lucas as the 2025 National Awards Banquet. Ed Tolman, MAFCA Board member is checking this out and has booked himself on a cruise to see about the details. Still talking about the 2027 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Route 66 Tour with Temecula Valley. Also a tour in 2025 to Charlotte will be put on by he Dallas, TX chapter.

MAFCA would like to see Palomar A's become more involved with the National tours.

David also reported the Reflector was sent to members. There are no new members, although Mark did talk to some people attending Cruisin Grand that sounded interested. 27 people were in attendance at the meeting.

Bruce Furbush reported Club received a Thank You for donation to the CA Surf museum.

Bruce also reported he had gone to Judy's Embroidery in Escondido and talked to them about the jackets. Linda, the owner, said that jackets would be approximately \$31, and costs would vary depending on what you wanted on the jacket. Larger patches on back, \$25 to \$30, smaller patches on front \$15 to \$20, name additional. Total would be about \$100. Those wanting jackets tentatively are Bill Adams, Bruce Furbush, Roseanne Meyerhoff, Jon and Anna Velasco, and Rick Spinello.

Ed does have T Shirts and hats for sale. Also, has club cards, some of which were passed out.

Greg Wilson is selling his 1929 Model A tudor sedan as he bought a 1950 2 Dr. Sedan, restored. Hawthorne Green color.

Mark Greenlee gave a tech report on a push button starter.

Karla Maxwell is to speak about hot air balloons at September meeting.

Anthony Lugo thanked Greg Wilson, Chuck Grabowsky, Susan Duey, and Mark Greenlee for bringing refreshments. Bruce and Jeanette, Chuck, and M.A. volunteered to bring refreshments next month.

There was no raffle at the meeting.

Volunteers are needed to sweep floors and put tables and chairs back in order.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Submitted by Karen Beel, Secretary

## ***NEW MEMBER***

Bill Haun  
1825 Kent Pl  
Vista, CA 92084  
Hm 760-724-2647  
Cell 760-573-1399  
haunwc@outlook.com  
Birthday May 16th.

In the market for an A I've offered him a chance to sit in yours to see which model he'd like best.

# ANCESTORS IN ACTION



William Grabowsky married Rosa Fink and they emigrated from Prussia in 1861. The best evidence that William fought in the Civil War is that the couple had none of their seven children until daughter Lena in January 1866. Then in Detroit that September they had their second, Elizabeth “Libby”. The next five children were all boys, Morris, Max, Joseph, Samuel, and Joshua.

At the turn of the century, William and Morris are merchants and Max works as a locksmith, gunsmith and bicycle repairman. In 1902, Max built a truck of his own design. It drove up to 10 m.p.h. powered by a horizontal gasoline engine. The chain-driven vehicle was sold to the American Garment Cleaning Company, one of the first recorded operators of a motor truck in Detroit. This first sale led to Grabowsky’s forming the Grabowsky Motor Company (GMC).

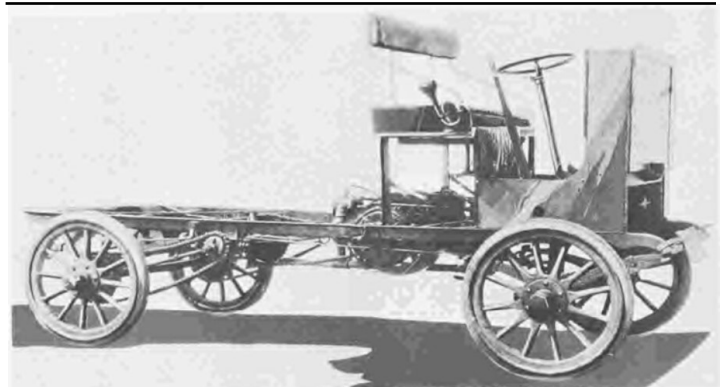
Seventy-five GMC trucks were built and sold from 1902 through 1904 and, encouraged by this success, Grabowsky formally incorporated the *Rapid Motor Vehicle Company* with capitalization of \$13,000. Partners included his brother Morris and two saloon keepers from their synagogue, Barney Finn and Albert Marx. Brothers Joseph and Joshua also joined the company as employees.

In 1905 Grabowsky arranged for additional capitalization and production facilities with A. G. North and his Pontiac Spring and Wagon Works. In 1906 they built 200 trucks in 20 different models. In 1908, William Durant began buying shares and by 1909 his company, General Motors, had a controlling interest.

At that point, the brothers split to work for separate automobile interests. Max, went to the Kelsey Wheel Company, and eventually began selling real estate. Morris became president of the Alden Sampson Auto Company—which later became the Maxwell Car Company until 1925 when



Max Grabowsky standing, M.D. Douglas, Pres of GMC sitting



it was bought by Walter Chrysler, and became a major part of Chrysler Motors.

The Southern California connection in this story is their older sister, Libby Grabowsky, who married fellow actor Porter J White in 1890 and toured the country. They moved to California after WWI where Libby taught acting and Porter sold insurance. Libby died in Pasadena in 1949. Libby’s eldest grandson, Daniel Murnane, died May 6, 1942 in a Japanese POW camp in Manila.

# PALOMAR TECH UPDATE



Today, Tuesday, August 22nd, is the first day of the semester, thanks to tropical storm Hillary shutting down the campus yesterday. Classes are still bonkers due to power outages, so I will meet for the auto body shop class tonight in the Humanities building.

This morning I had to skip my Automotive Electricity class held in the Social Sciences building because the family got the flu and I just didn't feel safe out in public. Tomorrow I'll have my third class, Automotive Brake Repair.

I have the textbooks for the Tues/Thurs classes, The four (textbook + lab manuals) totaled \$250, no word yet on a book for Brakes. The tuition for the three classes totaled \$420. Parking would be \$46. The Tues/Thurs classes go between 8 AM and 9 PM, so I'll also be buying dinner at the Subway on campus most of those nights and packing snacks and drinks as well. All told, these 9 units should come to between \$1500 and \$2000. Becoming an ASE (Automotive Service Excellence) Certified Mechanic requires finishing eleven classes. It should be under \$10,000, but, I don't know; that will be much more than it cost me to get my BA, teaching credential, and MLS. Will I finish what I started? I do feel sorry for kids these days.

Well, off to study a bit before class starts. My textbook was delivered two hours before this class, so I haven't opened it.



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## BIRTHDAYS

Steve DeAmbrogio	3 September
Erin Terry	7 September
John Burrell	13 September
Kim Wright	19 September
Bruce Furbush	23 September
Ray Matthews	30 September

## ANNIVERSARIES

Walt & Carla Hibbard	5 September
Chris Fuller & Christine Bartman	10 September
Greg & Cindy Wilson	11 September

## PARTY HUNTER

Saturday, Dec 9 will be the club's annual Christmas Party at The Hunter Restaurant in Oceanside. The cost will be discussed at the September meeting and it will be your first opportunity to pay for your reservations, so bring cash or check.

# AUGUST TOUR TO CHULA VISTA, CONTINUED

octopus, sea rays - so many in their separate ocean glass living spaces.

We got to view the bald eagle feeding time, with their delectable lunch of rat. But the guides had so much information to give us, we didn't focus on their meal. They told us that the majority of animals in the center had a physical problem of some sort which wouldn't have let them survive on their own, and this center gives them that life.

They also had a huge shark tank with many varieties swimming around. This center was amazing, and all the attendants gave us quite an education.

After we'd been there awhile, it was time to go over to the Kruegel's, not far from the center. We drove through the very nice downtown of Chula Vista, right to Howard and Barbara's house, where Fred Slikker joined us. Lunch was all set for us, and tables and chairs encouraged our visiting. Barbara had two games for us to try our luck at: guessing how many balls were in a fish-bowl and also how many mini marshmallows in another. New member Susan Duey won the marshmallow one and MA guessed the larger balls in the fishbowl. Bruce Howe won the raffle, which was a bag of Almond Roca. Everyone relaxed and chatted and had a great time. Howard is recovering nicely from his knee surgery just a few days before and didn't seem to mind too much all these people coming by! Joe even led, since Howard was out of commission, a tour for those interested in seeing the famous garage.

This was a wonderful tour, and stayed true to our mission of finding out-of-the-way, interesting



places to learn about - topped off with a terrific lunch and visiting with our Model A friends.

Linda Thamer



## TWO WILLIAM BOYDS

William Henry Boyd and William Lawrence Boyd were both actors, but very different people. In 1929, there was a publicized “Battle of the Boyds” when William H Boyd moved to Hollywood to try his hand (face?) in movies. H had actually made movies five years earlier than L, in the New York studios of Solax Film Company and Realart. L made his movies in Hollywood from the start, and worked for the Cecil B DeMille Studios for a time. Pathe Studios, which owned the contract of William L Boyd, on September 20, 1930, agreed to credit him as Bill Boyd, somewhat at his objection. Whether that was ‘the end’ of it, is a topic for more research than I hope to do. Wikipedia says that crucial mistakes which effected their careers happened due to mistaken identity, but if you look simply at the movies they made, there is no proof to the statement.

Both actors were in action movies, beginning in the silent era. Neither in Westerns, but cops and finding treasure, and intrigue in far off foreign lands. They both made the transition to talkies and had reasonable success. William H Boyd’s last movie before his death was *The Lost City* (1935) in which he played evil Dr. Zolok, intent on taking over the world using a machine that causes earthquakes. Bill Boyd shifted to mainly Westerns after the other’s death securing the character of Hopalong Cassidy. Eventually, he was able to return to being billed as William Boyd, especially as before his death, William H Boyd began being billed as “William “Stage” Boyd” or just as “Stage Boyd” even. If you would like to see Stage Boyd act, you can watch the 1933 version of *Oliver Twist*, starring Dickie Moore, Boyd plays the evil Bill Sikes. Stage Boyd and evil characters seemed to go hand in hand, perhaps it was a bit of typecasting?

The first story I found of Stage Boyd’s exploits outside of the stage occurred on August 14, 1920 when he got in a fight with Giants Manager, John McGraw hitting him over the head with a bottle in the Lamb’s Club in Manhattan. Potential causes include that Stage Boyd backed British actors over Americans, and that McGraw was using foul language and Boyd told him to shut up as there were the cleaning ladies present. Odds are that the two were simply drunk out of their heads, but Prohibition had recently started and so they both politely insisted that everyone was sober, in fact the broken bottle was a water carafe in one story.



On January 18th, 1931 Stage Boyd’s divorce from actress Clara Joel was finalized and he apparently was in **Oceanside** drinking to forget. On the 19th he sideswiped a car driven by Mrs. N. M. Jensen on the Coast Highway, forcing it into a ditch where it overturned. Then on February 28, 1931 Boyd was arrested at his home in Hollywood for throwing a wild party with drinking (still illegal) drugs, porn movies, and scantily clad female companionship. When interviewed, he claimed he was actually happy with the divorce because Miss Joel was “temperamental and often became abusive.”

William L Boyd, made sure that Hopalong didn’t smoke, drink, chew tobacco or swear, rarely kissed a girl and let the bad guy draw first. You couldn’t come up with two more different guys.

# Palomar Model A Ford Club

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## 2023 Board:

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Secretary	<i>Karen Beel</i>	760-741-7942	klbeel@sbcglobal.net
Membership	<i>David Frazee</i>	760-822-9523	frazeeintree@hotmail.com
Tour Leader	<i>Bruce Howe</i>	858-692-4309	zumaque42@yahoo.com
Reflector Ed	<i>David Frazee</i>	760-822-9523	frazeeintree@hotmail.com
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Web Master	<i>Sheila Saxman</i>	951-696-0323	rssaxman@TWC.com

The Palomar A's were founded in 1960 and became a MAFCA chapter in 1963. Local club members are encouraged to join the national organization. Membership information is available on [www.MAFCA.com](http://www.MAFCA.com).

Palomar dues are \$20 per year and club information, including a membership application, is available on [www.palomarmodelaclub.org](http://www.palomarmodelaclub.org)

**Meetings** are held the first Wednesday of each month, except December, at the Palomar Estates East Clubhouse: 650 S Rancho Santa Fe Rd, in San Marcos at 7:00pm. All Model A hobbyists are welcome to attend.

**The Reflector** is published in Escondido, CA after the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.



September, 2023

**THE REFLECTOR**



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