



# HIT 'N' MISS

Newsletter of the  
Western Antique Power Associates

[www.wapa.us](http://www.wapa.us)

NOVEMBER, 2014

## President's Report

By Bob Smith

I have a little more to report on the Museum project. I asked at the September board meeting if anyone knew of someone who can do an artist's sketch of the museum site showing all the proposed structures and various improvements our museum director, Ron Haskell, has planned. Joe Siddons said that his cousin does graphic design so I contacted him. We met at the Spadra site 3 weeks ago and showed him our plans and with a few measurements he said he would be back with us shortly with something showing our plan. Due to the Joe Siddons discount, the fee will be nominal. This artist's rendering will be our next step to a meeting with Cal Poly officials.

I have an interesting story to share with you. I was at the Duarte show and noticed one guy come by the adjacent trash can looking for CRV cans and bottles. You see them at most events. A little embarrassing for most folks but it is a living for these people. A little later in the afternoon I noticed a woman and her grown son going through the trash can and putting just about everything into a trash bag. They then went through the trash bag and put the trash back into the trash can. After observing them do this a couple times I became curious and went over and asked them if they were looking for something. The mother replied that her son was eating and accidentally threw his \$1,000 retainers away with the plate and napkin. They asked me if they had emptied the trash lately and I told them no so the retainers should be in there. After going through the trash one more time he found the lower half but could not find the upper. They said that they would just take the trash bags home and go through it thoroughly to find the other one. I asked the son if he would put them back into his mouth after being in all that trash. The mother quickly replied, "for a \$1,000, after a thorough cleaning he will put them back in."

## My View

By Tom Millett

So you say, "Where have you been?" Well, I have been working rather than playing like I should be doing. I'll not try to catch up on things, but rather hit on a few things that I have missed out on. Now I can't take credit for working when I missed out on both the Route 66 Car Show and So. Pasadena Car Show. I confess I was on the Island of Maui sunning up a storm. Those are two shows I hate to miss and photos of them prove they are both real popular. I also missed out on Ron's work party at the Ontario site of the 160HP Western. Photos of that showed an amazing job by all, and I was flabbergasted when I distinctly saw an image of Larry Madole with shovel in hand; not that Larry doesn't know how to work a shovel, I just have never seen him in that role. Great work, Larry. That contribution on your part is sure to inspire some others into giving a hand when we need them.

Ron has a way of carrying out these almost impossible ventures to fruition, and I plan to be there at the next work party with my old bones doing what I can. I think we are on one of the best rolls I've seen in my many years with WAPA. Some of our newer blood is taking part in managing things. That's good. We always need new ideas. Lance is getting his feet in the fire by accepting the purchasing duties. By the way, Lance, that was also my first position on the board. Also, my first job was getting corn for grinding at Knott's Berry Farm. It was \$5 for a 50lb. bag and now I'm being told it is \$17 for less than 50lbs.

Well, I have to go now and practice up on using a shovel and pick axe, because if I'm going to be at Ron's next work party on Tuesday, I want to be ready.

**WAPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 9:00 A.M.  
AGRISCAPE BUILDING AT CAL POLY (NEXT TO THE FARM STORE)**

**New Member Profile: Erl Bernard**  
**By Tom Millett**

Yes, that's his name and not a typo, but an acronym he made from letters of his given name which is a mile long. Erl is a 50 year old Los Angeles resident married to wife Richere. They have three children ranging in age from teens to twenties. Then, there is one granddaughter, who I'm sure gets spoiled by her grand folks.

Erl grew up in La Crescenta from where he attended high school. He went on to Cerritos College and finished their complete automotive program after four years, attending at night after a long day at work. His work career is based on his college degrees as he worked in the City of Los Angeles General Services for ten years maintaining vehicles. He then transferred to the L.A. Fire Department as a Fire Mechanic and has worked there for thirteen years maintaining their fleet of fire engines.

As a volunteer at the Fort MacArthur Museum, he was told that an old farm machinery club was going to be there doing a show. Since he has always had a huge interest in old machines he attended and while there, was accosted by our membership director, Jim Davis, who promptly extracted membership dues from him.

Erl has a Fairbanks-Morse Type Z which has a make-shift tag replacing the original that says "3 1/2 HP". My guess is that it is rather a 3 HP. He has it stored in his home garage and, like us all, he pulls it out once in a while and listens to it run. He is very interested in attending some of our shows when he can fit it in between work and those home chores. Where have we all heard of, and had that experience?

When you see Erl, welcome him to the finest group of engine lovers anywhere.

**Plant Tour, Global Environmental Products**  
**Saturday, November 15, 2014**  
**9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.**  
**San Bernardino**  
**With Bob Smith**

Plant Tour – Global Environmental Products – November 15, 2014, 9:00 – 10:30 am, in San Bernardino.

Did you ever travel down the freeway and see a Cal Trans sweeper doing it's dirty work cleaning the roadway and wonder how and where it was built? Well, now you have that chance. Before I retire, I will give you a step by step tour of the facility and you will see from start to finish the process of building a \$250k street sweeper. You will see the chassis frame being welded along with major components such as the cab and hopper. You will see the sweeper being assembled on an assembly line with 6 stations, and observe all the electrical wiring and instrument panels being produced. This is quite a site to see. If you would like to participate in this tour then please contact me, Bob Smith, at 909-435-9978 or e-mail me at [bob@wapa.us](mailto:bob@wapa.us) Space is limited to about 30 people so don't wait. Donuts and coffee will be provided prior to the tour along with a brief history and safety talk. Closed toed shoes are required and safety glasses and ear protection

**Western Antique Power Associates**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**October 4, 2014**

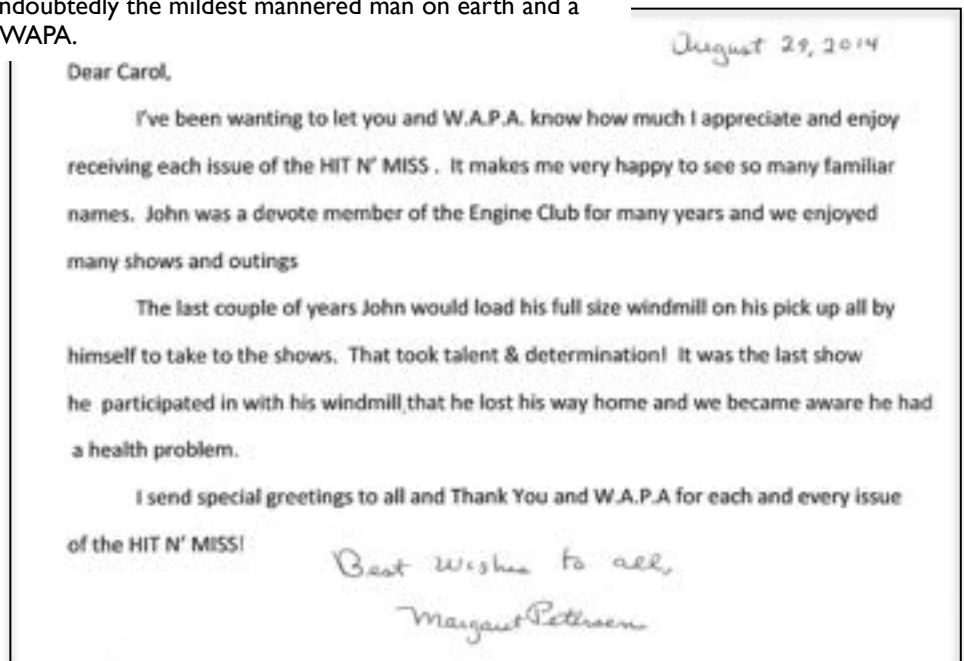
There was no October Board Meeting due to a lack of quorum.

**Note from the editor:** "Pete" Petersen is the way WAPA members always addressed John. He was undoubtedly the mildest mannered man on earth and a truly devoted member of WAPA.

**Petersen Family Donation**  
**By Tom Millett**

Margaret Petersen and family have donated to the WAPA Library a very well preserved copy of "American Gasoline Engines Since 1872" by C.W. Wendel in honor of husband, father and late beloved WAPA member John "Pete" Petersen.

The inside cover was autographed by Pete in 1986.



## **South Pasadena Car Show**

**By Ken Evans**

Well folks, we did it again. WAPA helped South Pasadena with their 10th Annual Cruz'n for Roses Car Show. Although there was a little rain early on, it cleared by the official start of the show at 10 am. Due to the rain, the number of cars was down, but there were plenty of spectators.

Representing WAPA was Jim and Nancy Davis with a 1 1/2HP John Deere and a pitcher water pump for the kids. Leroy Overstreet had his Maytag engine turning Spooky Halloween things. Next Bob Smith displayed a 2HP Reeco by Domestic and next to him was Danny and JoAnn Ponce with their table of solar power gadgets, a Red Wing model engine and on the ground the 4HP Domestic. Joe Giocomarra showed his great running Fairbanks Morse 1 1/2HP powering a grinding stone. Next we had the Riverside trio group of Tom Denson trying to run his Fuller Johnson 3 hp, but had ignition problems so it became a static display. It was to run an air blower but the belt got lost somewhere. Ron Haskell had his 1 1/2 - 2 1/2HP International Model LB pumping water all day. During the rain Merle Morse watched the rims of the flywheels on his 2 1/2HP Gault get spotted patina from instant rust. And finally Ken and Larry Evans displayed the 1 3/4HP United belted to the Duro mystery pump.

It was another great show and thanks to all that made it. By the way, Mark and Sheila Panzone, Jose Carrillo and Beverly Helm stopped by and said hello.

## **Aliso Viejo Founder's Day**

**By Bob Smith**

Aliso Viejo Founder's Day was moved to October and in the evening so it would not be so hot. Well that move turned out to be a great success because all those Alisoites came out for the event. We were told by the coordinator that the WAPA display was by far the main attraction. Participating in the event was Danny and Joann Ponce, Joe Siddons, Tom Millett, Leroy Overstreet, Merle Morse, Ron Haskell, Bob Smith, Rob Skinner, and Kelley Garcia. Funny story, when going to this event I normally take the toll road from the 91 freeway to the 5 freeway since it trims time and miles off my trip. Well I take this toll road once a year and when I got on it and was coming upon the first toll booth, I noticed that they had closed all the toll booths. With nowhere to go I had to drive through and let them take my picture as a violator. I kept seeing signs saying you could pay for one-time tolls online. When I got to the show the toll roads had a booth set up so I went over and asked them how the toll worked. You go online and enter your license number and the date of the trip to and from and it calculated the toll you pay with a credit card. You have 48 hours to pay this toll without incurring a fine. They are surely making money now that they have retired all those toll attendants.

## **Duarte City Picnic & Salute to Route 66**

**By Bob Smith**

Saturday, September 27, couldn't have been a better day for this show. The weather was in the low 80's with a few clouds throughout the day. All WAPA members were there promptly between 8 and 8:30 am, setup, and ready to show. Unfortunately, we had to wait until 11 when the parade ended and the crowds showed up. I do believe there were more cars on display this year. Good food and lots of entertainment.

Show attendees consisted of in no particular order: Merle Morse with his 1 1/2HP and 6HP Sandwich's, Ron Haskell with an 8 cycle Aermotor, Joe Siddons making rope for the spectators; Tim Neely bringing a 1929 1 1/2HP twin shroud Lauson; and a 1934 Lauson, Lance and Stephanie Wilson bringing a 3HP International, 1 1/2HP Fairbanks, 1HP Briggs, 3/4HP Lauson and a 1934 Briggs; and Bob Smith with his 1911 2HP Rider-Ericsson.

Members paying a visit during the day were Leroy Overstreet, Dick Bouma, and Jose Carrillo.

## **Glendora Pumpkin Festival**

**By Tom Millett**

It was a nice California day on Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup> when WAPA Members / Glendora Historical Foundation Officials John and Valerie DeLazzario again took charge of the annual Pumpkin Festival at Centennial Park. There were food booths everywhere, and I can attest to how delicious those cup cakes tasted. There were more activities going on and a larger crowd of people than I have ever seen at this event. Youngsters were all entertained with lots of "hands on" activities. WAPA is always a big attraction and as we arrived, Val's first words to Leroy Overstreet were, "Are you grinding corn"? And yes, we did. In fact, we ran out of corn meal bags before day's end.

We had a great mix of WAPA show folks. Ernie & Dorothy Groce had their fabulous display of models. By the way, Ernie is doing marvelous with his new hip replacement. Joe Siddons made rope. I should clarify that. He taught volunteers who were assigned to us how to make rope and let them do his job while he enjoyed the day relaxing. Bob Smith, Leroy Overstreet, Danny & JoAnn Ponce, Tom Fee, his granddaughter, Cheyenne, and Beverly Helm all brought machines or participated in grinding corn. Then there was Farmer Roger Hahn in bib overalls, who drove in with his immaculately restored Farmall Super "C" tractor towing a trailer loaded with an IHC-LB engine. Phil Sigmon & Sue Bradley are always the envy of everyone as they drive in with his enclosed trailer loaded with engines. He never has to go through the task of unloading when he gets home. Not to be outdone, Lance & Stephanie Wilson brought a Monitor engine set up for pump jack application, but converted to an attached can crusher. He bought it on E-bay, making the purchase the night before the show and it was never unloaded from his truck. Bring cans to Flabob and he'll show you how it works.

WAPA always looks forward to this show. John & Val, you did a great job.

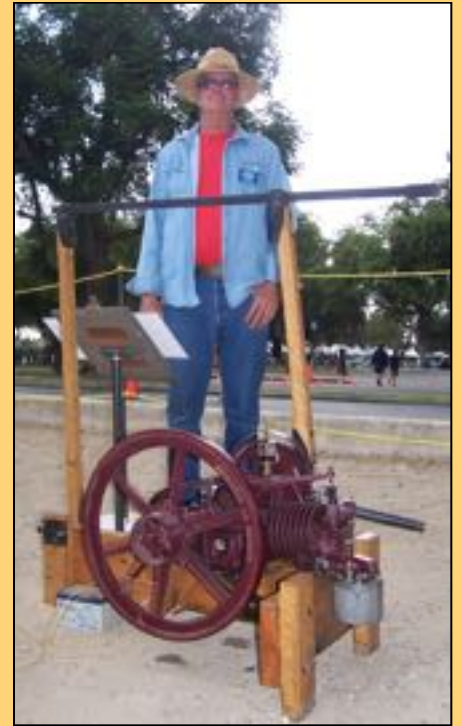
**This Old Iron—Ron Haskell, Aermotor**  
**By Bob Smith**

Back in November 2012 I did an article on Ken Evans' Aermotor showing at the Duarte show, and lo and behold here is another Aermotor engine being run at the 2014 Duarte show by our own Ron Haskell.

A few years ago Ron purchased this engine from Gus Lukrofka and had to do little to it. He is not sure of the year since Aermotor did not use serial numbers but instead letters and according to Ron nobody has broken the code. This code was probably developed by the Navajo Indians.

Aermotor engines were unique in that they were 8-cycle; they fired once every four revolutions. The cycles included intake, compression, fire, exhaust, breathe, exhaust, breath, exhaust--plus additional breathe and exhaust strokes as needed to govern the speed. Gasoline was taken in during the intake stroke, but only if the exhaust valve was closed. During the extra strokes, the engines would breathe through the muffler and the open exhaust valve. Because of the 8-cycle design, the engines ran cool and did not need cooling fans. Optional camshafts were available to convert the engines to 4-cyle operation, if desired. Later, large pumping engines were cooled with well water.

Another unique feature of Aermotor engines was that they had small fuel tanks mounted directly on their carburetors. This allowed a farmer or a rancher to add only the amount of gasoline necessary to run an engine long enough to fill a water tank. The operator could start the engine and walk away and the engine would run unattended until the water tank was full and then shut itself off.



2014 WAPA Officers	
President	Bob Smith
Vice President	Leroy Overstreet
Treasurer	Kelley Garcia
Secretary	Tom Millett
Membership	Jim Davis
Safety	Don Young
Show Director	Rob Skinner
Librarian	Joe Siddons
Purchasing	Lance Wilson
Museum Director	Ron Haskell
Editor	Carol Haskell



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## Upcoming Events

### Flabob Airport Veteran's Day Event November 8, Saturday

There will be planes, cars, engines and tractors at this year's Veteran's Day event. Setup by 8:00 am. The cafe will be open throughout the event. The address is 4130 Mennes Avenue, Riverside. We will be located between the two long hangars.

### Tulare Discussion, Special Guest December 6, Saturday

Our special guest for the December board of directors meeting will be Katy Young from the International Agri-Center in Tulare. Katy will inform us of recent changes to the Antique Farmshow scheduled for April, and will address any concerns that we might have. This is a good opportunity for WAPA to help make Tulare the best show it can be, and to insure that it's a fun event for our members.

## Obituaries

By Rob Skinner

On October 7, WAPA lost a long time member and former president, Bill Young. In his younger years, Bill worked on a



variety of jobs, from hauling gravel for the construction of the Santa Fe Dam, to working in the engine room on steam ships traveling to Catalina Island. Bill sometimes spoke of his time in the Merchant Marines, which included the task of cleaning and lubricating

giant steam engines while they were running; if you didn't pay close attention, you'd quickly lose limbs. Later, Bill taught school, and met his future wife Tamiko. They moved to her homeland of Japan, where Bill tutored students studying English. Bill always remained interested in WAPA's activities, and on every visit would want the latest information on what was going on within the club. When in the U.S., he would always want to get a hamburger, as he said the Japanese just couldn't fix them as well as Americans. Anyone that ever dined with Bill knew that hamburgers needed to be served with coffee—HOT coffee. If it wasn't near boiling it needed more time in the microwave. Bill was a good friend who will be missed.

The WAPA family has lost a Life Member, Fred Biggers, on October 14. Fred was a member for many years, all the way back to when we put on shows at Knott's Berry Farm every year. Fred didn't participate in many club activities over the past few years, due to age-related challenges, but he kept up-to-date through the newsletter. Fred was 91 years old, and is survived by his wife, Peggy.



Work party clearing brush from the building in South Ontario in preparation for the removal of the 160HP Western engine.

## Rubel Castle Tour

By Leroy Overstreet

On Saturday, October 11, 2014, fourteen WAPA members and invited guests got the grand tour of Rubel Castle in Glendora.

Our tour guide was long-time member of the Glendora Historical Society and great friend of WAPA, John Lundstrom. He gave us all a short history of the castle and its founder and builder, Mike Rubel. Mike was a unique individual who always built small castles and forts as a child. He made this castle within the confines of a huge irrigation reservoir, commencing in the late 1950's and took almost 25 years to complete with the help of young "pharm hands" who enjoyed playing with Mike.

Within the river rock built walls, the first things you see are bantam hens and roosters running loose, a couple of horses in a corral and a train caboose made up as living quarters. All kinds of crazy things are sticking out of the walls like an old typewriter, a motorcycle front end, an old AM car radio with push buttons, among many other things.

Our members were allowed to explore all the nooks and crannies as tour guide John gave the history of each room within. There is a machine shop, an active blacksmithing area, old fashioned and active kitchen, the Tin Castle with an array of everything imaginable, and autos including an antique Mercedes.

The tour wrapped up with what was supposed to be the running of the two Western engines, a 30HP and 60HP. To everyone's disappointment, neither one would start. Oh well, maybe next time.

Duarte Engine show, Route 66



Lance & Stephanie Wilson, Carey Stockton



Joe Siddons, rope maker

South Pasadena Car Show



Larry Evans & Merle Morse



Tom Denson



Leroy Overstreet and Halloween friend



Joe Giocomarra & Leroy Overstreet



Bob Smith with spectator

Glendora Pumpkin Festival

