



HIT & MISS

Newsletter of the Western Antique Power Associates

This Old Iron—Mitchell Reichwein by Dave Ruhland

Mitchell was born in Pasadena in Huntington Hospital. He grew up around older cars and early on he decided that girls were more fun than football. Mitchell was involved in mechanical things his whole life, his first car was a Fiat 600. Mitchell assembled the car that was in pieces and was no longer afoot. After school and weekends found Mitchell at his grandfather's garage. Having a mind of his own at 17, he quit school and moved on. Finding work on English vehicles for Performance and Classic Motors, then on to being a parts man for English cars, also Alfa and Fiat at Peter Satori's.

In the early 80's he and his new wife were living in Santa Barbara and Mitchell found a job in the top brake and chassis shop around, where he worked on anything from Bonneville cars on down. The early ninety's found Mitchell single and homeless due to a recession. He moved back to the Pasadena area and got work at Rusnak Jaguar as a mechanic, then service writer. Having Rolls Bentley knowledge, he wrote for them. When Audi had an opportunity to manage the new and used car prep department he grabbed it and with a good manager they turned that dealership into the number one in Southern California. While there he found his ex-wife, who needed help and brought her home to care for.

Mitchell always remembered the visits of his great grandmother when they would visit Knott's Berry Farm and enjoyed seeing the engines that were there, also the steam engine. A neighborhood man, Ward Kimble, had a steam engine and would fire it up, what an attraction it was. Mitchell enjoyed being around cars all the time but that was not the fun things he wanted. Hundred year old engines belted to something now that tickled his fancy. After getting a place of his own he was able to pursue his fun. Then along came Paul Montgomery who introduced him to WAPA, and being retired he spends time having fun. Mitchell is show coordinator for WAPA and shows up at Cal Poly on Tuesdays for our work parties.

Mitchell Reichwein is my first attempt to keep alive the spirit of Tom Millet who used to introduce us to various members of the club through a monthly article "This Old Iron". Thank you Carol Haskell for asking me to do this.
Dave Ruhland

President's Message by Bob Smith

The end of the year is here with Thanksgiving over and Christmas just around the corner. That means it is time to pay your annual WAPA membership dues for 2024. We are not jumping on the inflation bandwagon and are holding our dues at \$35 for a hardcopy newsletter and \$30 for an electronic version. Lorelei Rimpau is our new membership director so help her out and pay early. The end of the year is also time to think about those charitable donations you can write off on your taxes. WAPA is a 501(c)3 charitable organization so you could consider donating cash or big ticket items before the end of the year.

We have a very exciting year coming up with shows and continued work on our building at Cal Poly. We hope to make some great progress so if you want to be part of the fun then come out and join us. Ron and company have all kinds of ideas for improvements. We would like to get the 40 foot container moved over from Larry Madole's yard and get a roof erected between the container and our building. We would also like to get permission to move the 160hp Western Engine to a permanent home around the building. Plenty to do.

Everyone have a safe holiday season and hope to see you at a meeting or show.

**Next WAPA Board Meeting
December 9, 2023
9:00am at Cal Poly**