



AACA SO CAL REGION
Visits
the MOTTE HISTORICAL MUSEUM
May 19, 2022

It was a dreary, overcast morning in the Los Angeles area as the AACA SoCal members drove to Menifee in the Southwestern portion of Riverside County. But as soon as we could see the Motte Barn in the distance the sun seem to break though inviting us in for a delightful visit. Opening the barn doors we got a first glimpse of the thought and pride the Motte Family has put into their collection. In 1951 John Victor Motte bought a 1926 Chevrolet Touring for \$15, overhauled the engine, and in the late 1970's restored the car. That Chevrolet was the car that began the private collection and is on display today along with other vehicles relating to their family history.

Alphonse Motte, emigrating from France in the 1880's, began a sheep ranch. Later his three sons expanded their holdings to include farm land producing all types of grains. Leon Motte built the Motte's Romola Farms Barn in 1985 with architect Robert Morris from all salvaged materials such as: outside wood from the Coast Grainery in Long Beach; the windows from the American Standard factory in Torrance; and the wainscoting which was previously part of the bleachers at Cal Poly Pomona. John, a third generation Motte along with two siblings keep their family history alive, was our personal guide for the day. He kept us enthralled with stories of each of the cars which range from 1910 to 1969. John let us know that they are on the search for those cars that got away and memorabilia of Menifee (the name changed from Romola to Menifee in 2008) for the museum which they plan to expand.



A
view
from
above





Donuts & Coffee at the Motte Diner



Introducing our gracious host John Motte



Lincoln Continental



Studebaker



Cathy & Betty



Linda & Joe



Howard & Bill



1924 Model T School Bus

Patchett, a Ford Dealer in the early 1900's built the first school bus in the United States

- School officials came to Patchett in the bitter winter of 1913 asking that he develop a way to get children to school so they would not have to walk
- Patchett decided to take a Model T chassis and create a wooden passenger compartment that held up to 20 children
- His buses became so popular that soon schools followed his lead by developing Model T school buses of their own
- From 1924 to 1934, the Perris Union School District paid for



Betty & Howard



Duane, Phillip & Joel



1910 Harley Davidson
Road Track Racer Motorcycle



1931 Ford Victoria



1958 Chevrolet Impala



Put it back or you'll be left in that jail



Linda admiring the interior

1934 Pack 4-43 Club

- Packard built automobiles were considered America's finest high priced luxury automobiles from the 1920's to 1930's
- Fine car craftsmanship, engineering and attention to detail are what made the Packard 4-43 one of the most expensive cars of 1928
- The purchase price was \$4,450 and each body was designed in studios and individually built



1924 Electric Ford Model T

- Ford introduced the electric starter for the Model T in 1919 which meant owners no longer had to crank the engine to start
- The electric starter was a \$75 option, priced at \$281 in the basic form or \$366 with an electric starter and demountable rims