



MOTOR TRANSPORT MUSEUM NEWS

Volume XVIII No. 4 31949 Highway 94, Campo, CA, 91906 - Ph. (619) 478-2492 Winter 2016 - 2017

Web Site: www.motortransportmuseum.org ♦ E-mail: motortransportmuseum@gmail.com

We are saddened by the passing of Charles McMahon, a 101 year old former member of the Board of Directors of the MTM. His obituary is presented below.

This months feature article is an updated version of an article written by former MTM president, Ed Dilginis for the Winter 2009 newsletter which describes the early years of the MTM and the history of Campo.

Dues for 2017 are due this quarter for our General members. An article on page 2 tells how to find out who owes what and the application on the last page shows how to pay.

The Motor Transport Museum

The Motor Transport Museum (MTM) was founded by nine San Diego area old-truck enthusiasts in 1986. The Museum is a California non-profit public benefit corporation for public and charitable purposes, and is a non-profit 501c(3) organization allowing it to accept tax-deductible financial contributions, as well as historic vehicle and artifact donations. MTM is operated entirely by volunteers and is guided by its Board of Directors. The Museum is located in Campo, about 50 miles east of San Diego at 31949 Highway 94, just east of Buckman Springs Road.

Campo has a rich historic heritage. Former Camp Lockett, that occupied much of the Campo area, was used by the U.S. Army as a horse cavalry training facility for "colored soldiers", also known as "Buffalo Soldiers", as well as for other military purposes. During WWII, it housed 5,000 military personnel. It was the Army's last facility of its type, as its horse cavalry was disbanded in 1944. Because of the area's

MTM's main facility, the Campo Mill is located on an approximately four acre site. This historic industrial facility was



Type to enter textThe 1930s gas station under renovation with the Mill and outdoor display vehicles in the background



The Campo Mill, the main facility of the MTM

formerly a feldspar grinding mill which processed the locally-mined mineral into a fine white powder that was used in the manufacture of porcelain fixtures and electrical insulators. The Mill remained in operation as such until around 1958. The nine-story structure was noted to be the tallest and the best-built building in San Diego County at the time of its construction in 1926.

Other on-site facilities include MTM's Research Library, which houses a large collection of vintage motor transportation literature, including books, service manuals, trade magazines and other memorabilia. An historic gas station of around 1930 vintage is currently undergoing restoration.

The Museum has received approval to re-install a working railroad spur off the adjacent San Diego and Arizona Eastern Railroad that previously served the site.

MTM's primary focus as a truck and motor transportation museum to date has been on the acquisition of historic trucks, buses and trailers, from the early years of transportation, their storage and preservation, and their outdoor display in "rustic" (unrestored) condition. Many of these are rare and historically-significant trucks, both to the development of the motor transportation industry as well as to the San Diego County area, that would otherwise no longer exist if it had not

historic nature, the State of California has plans to someday make the former Camp Lockett a State Park.

Two other Museums are located in the Campo area, including the Stone Store Museum that is operated by the Mountain Empire Historical Society, and the Pacific Southwest Railroad Museum. Campo was once a railroad town.

been for MTM's preservation efforts. MTM has, in recent years, expanded its focus to include more modern post-WWII vehicles of the 1950's, 1960's and 1970's, including heavy diesel-powered haulers that served the West.

An additional component of the Museum is its large collection of historic stationary engines and industrial equipment, many of which had served San Diego County in uses such as generating electricity, powering wells, and in industrial, agricultural and construction. These are relevant to MTM's endeavors, as they complement the industrial nature of the site.

In 2012 MTM purchased four buildings used as stables at the wartime Camp Lockett. The buildings are about two miles south of the Mill. Each has approximately 8500 sq. ft. of covered floor space. After the War the buildings were used as school classrooms by San Diego County until the Mountain Empire High School was completed in 1975, then used for



One of the Camp Lockett stable buildings purchased by MTM. Roof repair has been completed and window and door repair is in progress.

storage and finally abandoned. They are structurally sound but the roofs, bathroom fixtures and windows were badly deteriorated. MTM re-roofed all four buildings with green rolled roofing, the same color as was used when they were built in the early 1940s, but of much superior modern material.

The MTM invites all who share a love of old trucks and trucking history to both visit us and to get involved. Please visit the Museum's web site at www.motortransportmuseum.org, or call us at 619-478-2492.

In Memorium, Charles McMahon

July 2, 1916 -- August 26, 2016

We are saddened by the death of long-time member and former Director Charles McMahon this past August. A self-trained mechanic, he has been a long time participant in automotive endeavors throughout the city, from gas station attendant to garage owner and founding member of several car clubs.

Charles was born in Chicago and he and his family moved to San Diego in 1929, lured by tales told by a relative in the Navy of a land of eternal summer.

Between his junior and senior year at San Diego High School he took a summer job in a radio shop where he worked from 8 AM until about 6 PM, six days a week and was paid \$1 per day.

Charles took a course in Auto Shop at school in his senior year, and honed his mechanical skills after school by fixing up an old Model T Ford and teaching himself to drive. Charles referred to himself as a "redneck peppertree mechanic" and

founded *Busby's Business* in Lemon Grove. It was an all-encompassing enterprise including auto sales and repair, heavy equipment operations, welding, and house moving and a multitude of other ventures. Charles continued as "Mr. Fix-it" his entire life.

At the age of 50, Charles changed the course of his life and attended college where his studies included philosophy, religious education, and business/economics. He earned B.A., M.A. and honorary Doctorate degrees and worked as a chaplain and a family counselor. During all these years, Charles remained active in the San Diego Roadster Club and Horseless Carriage Clubs of America as well as the Motor Transport Museum. He owned, modified and restored over 100 vehicles in his lifetime, including a 1915 Vim that he restored when he was in his 90s.

Charles was predeceased by his wives Lucille, Fran and Mildred; sister Gloria; son Dennis; and grand-daughter Nicole. He is survived by daughter Diane (Ken) and many relatives and friends.

Save the Date

The MTM will hold its annual membership meeting and Open House on Saturday April 22, 2017. There will be food, a raffle and rides on vintage vehicles. More details of the festivities will be included in the Spring 2017 newsletter.

New Water Line Added

A new water line has been installed from the well at the Mill to the neighbor's land to the west of the Mill. Jim Kemp, the rancher from whom we purchased the 2.5 acre MTM addition to the Mill property, runs cattle on the adjacent acreage and has a shortage of water. The 560 ft. water line was run from our well to the fence line where Jim installed a water trough for his cattle. Rick Northcote provided the machine to dig the ditch and Andy Andrews helped with the trencher. One cow needs about 10 gallons of water a day and this section of Jim's ranch can support up to 20 head of cattle.

2017 MTM Dues

January is the month to renew your membership. You can determine the status of your dues by looking at the top right corner of the address label that came with your newsletter. If it says LIFE or COMP no other action is necessary. If it has a year in that corner you are paid up through that year. If that year is any year prior to 2017 you need to renew. Please fill out and mail the application printed on page 4 of this newsletter.

For those members who get their newsletter by email a note will be included with the delivery of your newsletter telling you the status of your dues. Thank you for your membership and continued support.

New Members

Ray Mosley of Lakeside, CA, **Pete Hartness** of San Diego, and **George Sanabrig** of El Centro, CA have enrolled as new General members of the Museum since publication of



2017

**JOSH JACKSON
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WILLOW WISP, MA 90103**

the last newsletter. We welcome these new members to our Museum and thank them for their support.

Recent Donations

The Motor Transport Museum accepts donations of vehicles, tools, literature and miscellaneous items. The Museum is a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization and all donations are tax



1974 Ford 2-ton flatbed truck donated by Wally Barber



The 1958 Ford from Wally Barber

deductible.

Wally Barber of San Diego donated two trucks since publishing of the last newsletter. They are a 1974 Ford 2 ton flatbed and a 1958 Ford. Both are shown above.

The MTM thanks Wally for his generosity in helping the Museum to attain its goals.

Upcoming Events

The **BIG 3 Parts Exchange** will be held on the weekend of February 24th, 25th and 26th, 2017 at the Qualcomm stadium parking lot in San Diego. This swap meet is held annually and has grown to be the largest old car event held in the San Diego area, attracting participants from all over the country.

Shoppers are admitted free but there is a \$10 fee for parking. For more information visit www.big3partsexchange.com

The **Arizona Early Day Gas Engine & Tractor Association** will hold its **Annual Winter Antique Tractor Show** on the weekend of February 11 and 12 at the Suhuaro Ranch Park in Glendale AZ. There will be engine displays and demonstrations, tractor pulls, crafters, a blacksmith exhibition, children's activities, and hayrides. A tractor parade will be held at 1 p.m. on both days. For more information visit www.aedgeta.org

The **MTM Board of Directors'** meetings for the Winter quarter of 2016-2017 will be held at the Horseless Carriage Foundation Library at 8186 Center Street in La Mesa, CA at 6:30 PM on the following Thursdays:

February 16th **March 16th**

On Sunday January 22, 2017 the MTM Board of Directors' will hold its annual planning meeting at the Mill. Everyone is invited to attend. The meeting will start at 10:00 AM

Hours of Operation

The Museum facility at 31949 Highway 94 in Campo, CA is open to the public every Saturday from 9 AM to 5 PM. Admission is free, donations are accepted.

Wednesdays and Fridays are workdays and members are working on projects. Visitors are welcome to come in if the gate is open.

Members! Advertise Items for sale in the Newsletter!

The Motor Transport News is now offering a sales insert page for museum members. Got a vehicle, motor or some parts that you would like to sell? Are you in need of some vehicle parts or a particular type of equipment or truck? Now you can reach hundreds of buying and selling sources by advertising in our newsletter, and it's free! Check out our new sales insert for more information on how you can place your ad in our "For Sale" and "Items Wanted" section. Place ads before the 10th of March, June, September and December.

Get Your Newsletter by email

You can donate towards MTM's cause without spending a dime by simply receiving these quarterly issues of the *Motor Transport Museum News* by e-mail. This way MTM can save mailing costs and use the savings towards operating expenses. You will get an instantaneous PDF copy of the newsletter and the Museum will save money on printing and postage. Email us at motortransportmuseum@gmail.com and subscribe.

Remember

It is better to act and repent than not act and regret.

Niccolo Machiavelli

MTM Officers and Directors

The officers and directors of the Motor Transport Museum are as follows:

Officers: Greg Long, President
Bill Fields, Vice President
John W. Thomas, Secretary

Carl E. Calvert, Chief Financial Officer

Directors: Jim Jensen, Bill Jellyman, Mike Anderson,
John Thomas, Carl Calvert, Bill Fields,
Bryan Butler and Sherman George

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

New Renewal

Name _____ Spouse _____
Street Address _____ City _____
State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ E-Mail _____

General Membership	1Yr \$20 _____	2Yr \$40 _____	3Yr \$60 _____
General - International Membership (Non USA Mailing Address)			1Yr \$25 _____
Corporate Membership			1Yr \$75 _____
Life Membership			\$250 _____
Endowing Life Membership			\$1000 _____
Associate Membership - Non Profit organization			1Yr \$35 _____
Junior Membership - Children under 18 (non-voting)			1Yr \$1 _____
Student Membership - Full time students, 18 - 25			1Yr \$6 _____

I agree to comply strictly with the By Laws of the Motor Transport Museum; to conduct myself at all times in a manner which will support and promote the best interest of the Motor Transport Museum

Signature of Applicant _____ Date _____



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31949 HIGHWAY 94
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