



# Fuel Line



## November 2019

Newsletter of the Central Arizona Region  
of the Vintage Chevrolet Club of America  
[www.vintagechevyclubaz.com](http://www.vintagechevyclubaz.com)



### November CAR Meeting



The November meeting of the CAR will be Monday, November 4th @ 6 PM. Location is Ed & Linda Behie's home at 5035 W. North Ln in Glendale. Come join us to help plan what we want to do for events in the coming new year. Please call Linda @ 602-799-1422 and let her know you are coming so she can count on how many vittles to fix for dinner.

Hope to see you there!



Rush hour traffic on Wilshire Blvd in L A circa 1930's

**CENTRAL ARIZONA REGION:** of the Vintage Chevrolet Club of America was organized for the purpose of restoring and preserving Vintage Chevrolets. We welcome anyone who has a sincere interest in sharing their knowledge and experience in the history and enjoyment of the automobile.

**MEMBERSHIP DUES:** An active member in good standing is defined as an individual or family who has paid into both the National VCCA and the Central Arizona Region. This entitles the member to a subscription to the local regional newsletter, the "FUEL LINE". Any paid member may participate in the business meeting and all club events, both regional and national. Membership in the VCCA does not require ownership of a Vintage Chevrolet. For information concerning Central Arizona Region - VCCA please contact one of the following officers or board members. MEMBERSHIP DUES for CENTRAL ARIZONA REGION (any individual or family) \$20.00/year (half of National), NATIONAL VCCA: \$40.00/year. Dues are payable on January 1<sup>st</sup> and delinquent after February 1<sup>st</sup>. Please include your National and Local number on your renewal

### Central Arizona Region VCCA 2019

<b>Director</b> <b>Diane Adams</b> 4024 W. Topeka Dr Glendale, AZ 85308 623-516-0575 Term 2019	<b>Vice Director/ Treasurer</b> <b>Sandy Bruyn</b> 17404 N 99th Ave #105 Sun City, AZ 85373 253-312-4633 Term 2019	<b>Secretary</b> <b>Linda Behie</b> 5305 W. North Lane Glendale, AZ 85302 602-799-1422 Term 2019	<b>Board Member</b> <b>Mike Draskovic</b> 6844 W Belmont Glendale, AZ 85303 623-979-2653
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Board of Directors			
<b>Don Adams</b> 4024 W. Topeka Dr Glendale, AZ 85308 623-516-0575	<b>Tom Wolcott</b> 3049 E. Campo Bello Dr Phoenix, AZ 85032 602-441-3696	<b>Dean Echols</b> 2049 W. Mohave Chino Valley, AZ 86323 928-710-4325	<b>Fred Johnson</b> 12880 S 193rd Ave Buckeye, AZ 85326 541-401-3174
<b>Robin Henry</b> 1219 E. Northview Ave. Phoenix, AZ 85020 602-377-7731			

## Chapter Application for Membership **Welcome**

**CENTRAL ARIZONA REGION**  
Chapter of the Vintage Chevrolet Club of America



**Renewal**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Month/Day: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation or Business: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_ Newsletter Emailed Mailed \_\_\_\_\_ Both \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Month/Day: \_\_\_\_\_  / \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_

Children: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Month/Day: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Central Arizona Region # \_\_\_\_\_ Vintage Chevrolet Club of America National # \_\_\_\_\_

Must be a member of Vintage Chevrolet Club of America \_\_\_\_\_ Thank you for your generous support and participation in this association.

Recommended By:

YEAR (1949)	MODEL (Style Line; Touring)	MODEL# (Deluxe)	BODY STYLE (2-4 DR, Coupe, etc)	COLOR (BK)	CONDITION (Showable, etc)
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## Directors Message from Diane Adams

The swap meet seemed to be a great success. A couple people told Don” Now this is a swap meet!”. Looking forward to the one in March.

We have a good response to the tour to Silver Star Theater Saturday. Hope to see you there. ( Don’t forget to be there by 4:45)

We have the Christmas party set for Sunday, December 8th. Come and join the fun!

The Phoenix Model A Club is touring the Tovrea Castle in Phoenix on Thursday, February 20th, 2020. They have 21 tickets left at \$20 ea. If you want to go, please let me know. I will go ahead and purchase the tickets at the next Model A meeting. The wait list to buy tickets is over 6 months. Get them now! Diane.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Nov 2** CAR at the Silver Star Theater in Mesa - 4:45 PM.  
**Nov 3** Chevys in the Park - Chandler  
**Nov 4** CAR Meeting - Ed & Linda Behie’s home - 6:00 PM  
**Nov 9** Rockabilly Show @ Sanderson Ford - Glendale  
**Nov 15-17** Good Guys 22nd Annual Southwest Nationals  
**Nov 28** Happy Thanksgiving!!
- Dec 7** Christmas Car Show - Surprise  
**Dec 8** CAR Christmas Banquet - Dillon’s Restaurant - 1 PM  
**Dec 8** Toyz for Totz - Phoenix to Wickenburg  
**Dec 25** Merry Christmas!!

**Don’t forget the ongoing cruises around the Valley on Friday & Saturday nights!**

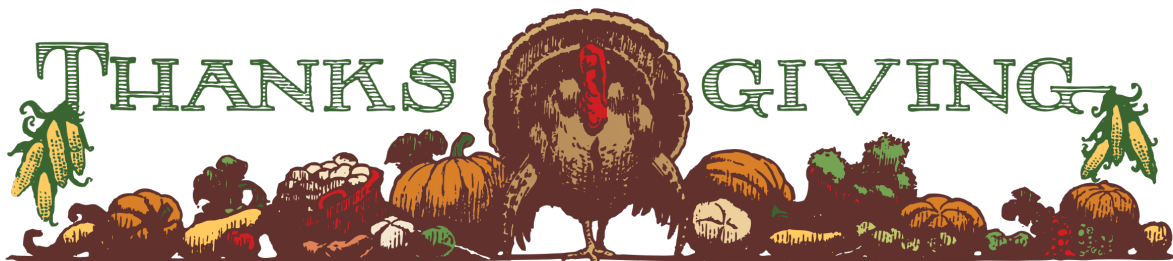
**Friday night**

**Surprise - Sam’s Club - 16573 W Bell Rd**

**Saturday Night -**

**Glendale - K-Mart - 6731 W Bell Rd**

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*Signed up for my company’s 401K but I am nervous because I’ve never run that far before.....*

# **CAR Meeting Minutes**

## **October 9th , 2019**

**Meeting called to order at 6:15 PM**

**Officers not present: Mike Draskovic, Tom Wolcott & Robin Henry.**

**September meeting minutes read and accepted.**

**Treasurers report was given and accepted.**

**Old business:**

**Dean gave a report on upcoming October swap meet - still receiving preregistrations.  
Looks to be a good swap meet.**

**Diane related that Don Davis is still at Automotive Department at GCC. Trying to  
get some scholarship applications from him.**

**New business:**

**Diane set up Dillon's for the Christmas Banquet on December 8th. 1:00 PM. Gift  
exchange again - \$15-\$20 limit.**

**Dean set up the Silver Star Dinner Theater for Saturday, Nov 2nd at 4:45 PM.  
Club to pay half of \$40 admission.**

**New officers for 2020 : Fred Johnson is the new Treasurer. ( by a landslide)  
Sandy Bruyn is the new Vice President ( by a squeaker).  
Ed & Linda Behie are the new Secretary team ( by the Santa Fe  
Railroad method)**

**Meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM**

**Thank you to Sandy & Paul for sharing your home with us and the GREAT dinner!**

**Respectfully submitted by Ed & Linda Behie**



# Tovrea Castle



Tovrea Castle began in the spring of 1928 on the 43 acres known as “Warner Heights” of the 277 acres of undeveloped desert that was purchased by Italian immigrant and California businessman Alessio Carraro. Mr. Carraro envisioned the site as a commercial development surrounded by cactus gardens. The property was located along the Tempe Road (now 5041 E. Van Buren Street) 4 miles east of Phoenix. At that time, the Phoenix city limits extended west to 16th Street. Mr. Carraro stripped most of the vegetation from the native granite terrain except for saguaro cactus. Then Mr. Carraro hired a Russian gardener named Moktachev to landscape the area surrounding the castle into cactus gardens. The gardens were built from 1928 to 1929 before the construction of the Castle started. Tovrea Castle was constructed from December 1929 to January 1931 - approximately 14 months. Mr. Carraro planned the three story structure to be the centerpiece of the development. During the construction of the castle, the “Great Depression” descended upon Arizona, the United States of America and the world. Most banks closed leaving their depositors destitute; few people had money, some lost everything and developments were fortunate to be completed. Life that had once seemed to be “a great opportunity” had become “a nightmare”. Sometime near the completion of structure, Mr. Carraro put his properties up for sale to finish the castle. In 1931, Mr. Carraro sold the completed castle and surrounding 43 acres to Edward A. Tovrea. Mr. Carraro would develop one more property on the 277 acre parcel. It is still standing today at 5501 E. Washington Street. It has been a gas station, church, a bar and currently it is the home of the “Castle Boutique”. In 1919 Illinois immigrant and Arizona businessman E.A. Tovrea moved from Bisbee, Arizona to the sparsely populated Phoenix area ¼ mile west of the Warner property to build and to operate the Arizona Packing Company along the Tempe Road (4601 E. Van Buren Street). This was

nine years prior to Mr. Carraro's purchase of "Warner Heights". E.A. had immigrated to Arizona in 1883 with his wagon and mule team freighting ore and supplies between the mine in Jerome and rail-head in Ash Fork along with pursuing other freighting opportunities in northern Arizona. In 1889 while E.A. was homesteading near Gila Bend, he opened his first butcher shop. In 1928 when Mr. Carraro bought the adjacent castle property, E.A. Tovrea's Arizona Packing Company had over 400 employees, slaughtered 20,550 cattle, 6,583 calves, 11,298 sheep and 42,556 hogs, generated \$4,752,465.72 in Sales and \$249,859.04 in Net Profit. On February 7, 1932 E.A. Tovrea died leaving his wife Della with a "life estate" that entitled her to live in Tovrea Castle until her death. She kept Tovrea Castle as a winter home, moved to the Tovrea summer home in Prescott and in 1936 she married William Stuart, publisher of the newspaper "The Prescott Courier". After William's death in 1960, Della stayed at Tovrea Castle full time until her death in 1969. Tovrea Castle had an evaporative cooler in a basement window and two electric space heaters, one in the basement and one in the living room fireplace. The basement served as the primary living quarters and bedroom during her marriages but in her final years she slept alone on a cot in the kitchen. The home was overfilled with things that she and her husbands' had acquired throughout their lives.

After Della's death, the Valley National Bank assumed control of the Tovrea Castle property until her possessions were liquidated and the lawsuit concerning her "life estate" was settled. Castle maintenance suffered during "the battle of the estates". When the lawsuit was settled in the late 1970's, the Philip E. Tovrea Sr. Estate trustees assumed control of the property. Tovrea Castle was never abandoned. Shortly after Della's death in 1969, the caretaker, Liz Lansberry, who had been living on the property for many years, was asked to move up into Tovrea Castle. When Liz married and left in 1980, a Tovrea family member became caretaker. In 1980 the Tovrea family member was living in rural Arizona with his wife and four year old son. They continued to live two hours away and moved into Tovrea Castle making it their 2nd home. The castle's deferred maintenance was the priority. The roof was repaired, Van Buren Street entrance restored, castle flag reinstated, walls repainted or touched up, new basement cooler installed, floors refinished and replaced, basement safe lever and combination reactivated, perimeter rock walls restacked, barn and grounds maintained, windows refurbished then replaced, basement restored, roads graded, flag pole and exterior lights put on timers, river rock walls vegetation removed, pyramid installed and interior kept neat and clean.

The family member recruited the help of sub-caretakers, Ed “Happy” Tovrea, Danny Mores, Freddy Aneas, Warren LeSueur, Peter Jordan, Barry Stuckear, and Randy Schmidt who checked on the castle every day when the family member and his son were not at home in Phoenix. The family member believed that if dedicated individuals and groups put their energies into Tovrea Castle, it would be preserved.

The City of Phoenix bought Tovrea Castle in 1993. The Tovrea family member continued to live in the castle and worked with Mark Lamm of the Phoenix Parks Department who oversaw the property for fifteen years. In the late 1990’s the City of Phoenix hired a caretaker, Bill Soderman, with the family member maintaining a presence at Tovrea Castle. In the early 2000’s Bill moved to New Mexico. After that the City of Phoenix paid for private security and Park Ranger Patrols.

The citizens of Phoenix voted for and passed several bond issues to help purchase Tovrea Castle and grounds. The 1st purchase in 1993 for Tovrea Castle and the surrounding 6.65 acres were funded with a special, stand alone, bond election that passed by 80%. Over the next ten years the City of Phoenix methodically acquired the remainder of the 43 acres that had been owned by the Tovrea family for 72 years. Tovrea Castle was listed on the City Historic Property Registry in 1990, placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1996 and designated a City of Phoenix “Landmark” and “Point of Pride”.

In 2009 volunteers were reintroduced on to Tovrea Castle grounds. In partnership with the City of Phoenix, one gardener took it upon herself to organize a call for volunteers. Working three days every month, hundreds of volunteers transformed the castle grounds and cactus gardens into a respectable, well kept condition. In 2011 “a small group of community volunteers” spearheaded by the “one gardener” and other Tovrea Castle volunteer gardeners formed an IRS sanctioned non-profit corporation “to partner with the City of Phoenix to preserve, maintain and restore the historic structures, gardens and grounds comprising Tovrea Castle at Carraro Heights and to provide access to visitors”.

( Thanks to the Tovrea Corporation )

(Note: CAR members will be visiting the Tovrea Castle in February)



Central Arizona Region VCCA  
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