

Buicks & Avocados

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Recipe for a (no exaggeration) *Superlative* Event

Note: this recipe conforms to locavore standards and may be altered to meet needs in your area.

Ingredients

One part Ventura/Santa Barbara Counties Region ROA

One part Los Angeles Chapter BCA

One part superbly hospitable hosts, ROA's Lee & Lisa Pickett

One part members of each organization responding to the invitation to attend

Mix and mingle the above. No baking required as in spite of the gathering taking place on a mid-summer afternoon, the "weather gods" chose to smile on the day keeping temperatures moderate, ensuring maximum enjoyment.

Dubbed "Avocados & Buicks" the gathering spot was ROA Ventura/Santa Barbara Counties Regional coordinator Lee Puckett's 5-acre working avocado ranch/home. As the nearly 40 people attending discovered, hospitality Lee-and-Lisa style is nothing short of superb.

After attendees had time to get acquainted, admire one another's cars, and have a bite of lunch, Lee formally welcomed everyone again. Your correspondent had been invited to give a brief presentation, much of which will be shared in a future *Riview* article reminiscing on Lucerne, Buick's concept car that inspired the last generation Riviera.

Earlier in the day Bob Winger had shown me a silver dollar-size brass Buick token dated 1953, wanting to know its history. I couldn't help but another present could—and did. Bob Bakke was a field sales manager for BMD starting in 1948. He immediately recognized the token for he has one too. As 1953 was a significant anniversary for Buick, each employee attending the Flint all-employee meeting was given one personalized with the employee's name stamped onto it. Later, Winger was requested to produce the token for all to see. He eventually did but amidst much good-natured laughter as accompanying photo shows.

Next, Lee shared some of his avocado-rancher experiences. Agriculture is important in Ventura County with avocados and lemons its two top crops. Both are "thirsty" so all were interested in hearing how much water is required and other details. Afterward, responding to requests, Lee conducted a walking tour.

No one left empty handed. Gifts to all included luscious avocados and Buick collectibles too.