

# PSCLC Visits the California Car Company

On one of Georgia's finest winter days with a bright overhead sky and warm temperature, 23 PSCLC members and 1 guest spent the afternoon together socializing, chowing down, visiting a classic car sales showroom and a restoration shop.



Our meeting place was the Dreamland BBQ restaurant on Alpharetta Highway in Roswell where our group of Cadillacs took over the parking lot.



A wide choice of menu items greeted us in our private, but open to the rest of this large, family oriented restaurant. Socializing and eliminating a large amount of BBQ was our goal and both were achieved.



From Dreamland BBQ we traveled a few blocks to our host, Jim Gebhardt's *California Car Company* sales location at 10903 Alpharetta Highway in Roswell.



Parking was at a premium but we managed to get all of the cars off the road and parked.



**Sandy's '76 d 'Elegance parked where Jay's classy '49 pinned him in a corner.**



**Inside the showroom were some of Jim's favorite personal cars and some you could buy if the wallet is fat enough. Jim's favorite, out of a group of about 95, is his woody Ford.**



**The tightly packed showroom featured a**



**second Woodie, this one being a Pontiac wagon, a T-Bird and Pontiac convertible amongst the several fully restored cars.**



**In the back of the showroom is a storage area for cars waiting to be restored, containing about a dozen cars. Jim had been late to lunch as he had a customer that was negotiating to purchase a 1955 Buick Special. He sold it to a couple from Germany.**



From the showroom we drove a couple of miles to his restoration and body shop, run by his son Jim Jr., ***Express Auto Body***, located at 11450 N. Fulton Industrial Blvd. in Alpharetta. Many cars were stored outside awaiting their turn to go inside and get all gorgeous again. There were several sections of the building devoted to different restoration operations. Our first stop was to the paint booth section where several cars in various stages of paint called home.



Jim Jr's personal Datsun 2000 is in the restoration process, just back from wet sand detailing, getting ready to go back together.



Hidden deep in a corner was a Cord which Jim will be restoring, a car that he pursued purchasing for several years before he was successful getting it in his collection.

Next we looked into the sheet metal room where 3 accomplished metal workers do their magic on the bodies. Next was another storage area. This area included several interesting cars including two late 30's 4 door sedan convertibles, one sporting suicide doors and a removable "B" pillar. Martina drooled all over it, finally having a photo on her camera of herself sitting in the rear seat.

Our final stop was in another storage area where many of the cars, mostly GM, heavy in Chevy's, were fully restored.



**This 1958 Impala recently scored 998 points out of 1,000 at a national judged show.**



**That's Jim Gephardt behind the Impala. He is an encyclopedia of car knowledge and more than willing to share it. He provided detailed information on many of the cars along with the nuances that made them special. We learned about the processes they do to provide a highly restored vehicle while retaining originality. Jim was an excellent host and stayed an additional 30 minutes after y'all left for home as Tom, Jack and myself picked his brain on a number of items. You can contact Jim at 770-992-4542.**

**Picture story and photographs by Lee Dunn.**