



Your News - My Views

By Billy Eordekian

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On December 22nd and 23rd I went in search of our great recession, It just couldn't be found though, not at least at Los Angeles area San Fernando Valley tire dealers.

Northridge Tire Pros was so busy that I never really talked to anyone until I interrupted **Kenny Kelso** on his way out to inspect a customer's vehicle as his **daughter Sarah** advised a customer that a set of tire chains "will fit." A polite Kenny gave me a warm greeting, and we exchanged a few words. I knew it was time to leave since I could not offer any advice on the chains.

John Austin of **Wesco Track & Tire** gave me the tour of his large and well kept facility in Van Nuys where he does a lot of car dealer chrome exchange work. Starting at a smaller shop on Sepulveda Blvd, John has been a big success and has been in business since the 60's. Good things happen for good and hard working people. Some great wheel men were trained at Wesco!

Shawn Smith and Sister **Kristen Dietz** carry on the proud tradition **Flip's Tire** in Van Nuys and of their father **Flip Smith**. Flip who was a civic leader and led the fight to clean up Sepulveda Blvd, passed away in 2008. Flip was a great tire man and a great guy. Salesman David Karasseferian wore a Hawaiian shirt in the tradition of Flip himself. I enjoyed Shawn's enthusiasm and he even said some nice things about me! Long live our memory of Flip!

My space is limited here and so next month I will be writing more about my visits, as well as some of the interesting history of the hubcap business, including Canoga Hubcap.

The only thing that I will enjoy more than writing this column for you is to know that you are reading it. Notice that I have entitled it "Your News - My Views" This means that I not only want your comments about the column, but I need to have each of you contributing with "Your News" and I expect to hear from North and South! Let me know what is going on in your business, or also, if something significant has happened in your life, then please let me know about that too. This way you will get more of "Your News" and less of "My Views" and that's a good thing!

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By the way, I know that most of you don't know who I am and so you can read Ejnar's column in this issue to find out. I am going to read it too, since I am not really sure who I am either. Besides, the only thing more sickening than my writing is my writing about myself! Your Humble Wheel Peddler, Billy Eordekian, 1-800EveryRim.com