

connections, respect, and trust among those who own them. As such, the beautiful outdoor-indoor showroom branches out to a boardroom where Packards International hosts its' meetings, and a gaggle of Packard and Club history are kept. Bill was one of the founding members of the Club, giving him an edge on the trust, connections, and respect circuit. Out back, a large shop was established where everything from a basic tune up to a complete restoration could be performed.

Today, an enormous amount of cars are in various stages of service and restoration, and throughout it all, like so many vintage garage buffs, the walls are absolutely chock full of eye candy. Packard advertising art, vintage carpets, musicians and actors' images, car show art, and on and on the overwhelming scene goes. Is it too much? Nope, it's just right. It's the style that Robert and his clientele seem to gravitate to, lending it a commonality among friends, furthering the camaraderie between them.

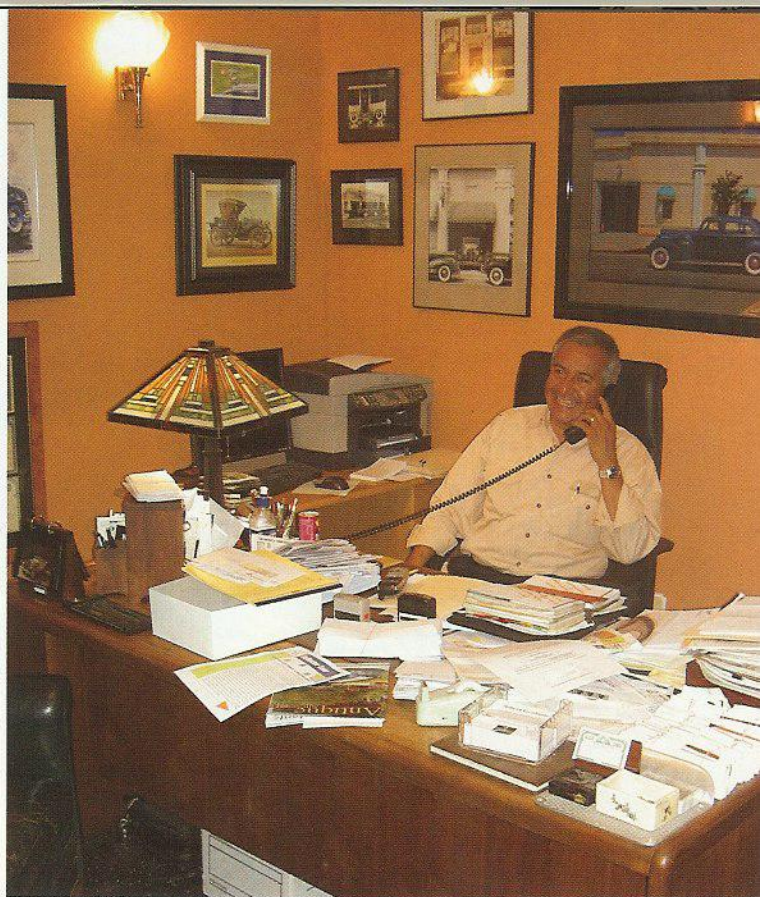
In 2008, CAS turned 42 years old. On the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the City of Santa Ana awarded CAS for being the longest running business in the city. At the celebration held in the garage, the mayor, council members, chief of police, and an assortment of friends, family, clients, and fans toasted Robert and his family for keeping CAS running and profitable. Now, the wall in Robert's office is covered in resolutions from the senate, council, and even the chief, who awarded the police department's first resolution.

"I'm very proud of it all, but it wasn't all me who did this," said Robert.

Robert's father, Al was an excellent mentor. With his help, Robert, Sandy, David, and Toby, and with the expertise of Cal on their side, were able to make a success out of the business. As it stands now, Al enjoys watching them work. Robert started working at CAS out of high school when he discovered he needed a taillight lens for his own Packard, and he met Bill, who essentially offered him a job on the spot. Happy to have a job, Robert quickly became "the everything guy."

"I did everything no one else wanted to do," he laughs.

Over time, however, Robert learned a lot about business and people, and was soon trusted with a lot of responsibility. In 1983, Bill sold the business to Robert, and the rest, as they say, is history. Thankfully, Robert and his tried and true, trusted posse that makes up Team Packard have managed to continue a legacy of service to a very niche clientele while conducting business out of a historically significant building that boasts only automotive service throughout its lengthy existence. Then again, what would one expect from such an exclusive club? **GSM**



Robert Escalante (above) at the helm of his ultra busy desk with is ominpresent telephone. The flaked and bordered black floor (below) resembles asphalt, while the yellow curb and working streetlights lining the showroom lend to an outdoorsy feel that belongs on a film noir set.

