

# VISIT FROM PREVIOUS RIVIERA OWNERS



## Visit from previous Riviera owners

It has been a busy and enjoyable morning. Awoke and out of bed at 6.30 am, fed squirrels and birds in garden, let out dogs, grabbed water bottle, off to gym for an hour of (trying!) to lift impossible weights, back home, walked dogs with Su, had breakfast, went outside to wash the Buick Riviera and give the Mercedes a quick “go-over”; all because... at 10.30 am, our three guests, Chuck, Linda and son Mike arrived.

They were the second owners (we’re the fifth) of our glorious 1963 Buick Riviera, having bought it from the estate of Mrs. Verna Beard, the first owner, in 1993. Although the old girl (the Riviera, not Mrs. Beard!) had only done 80,000 miles in 30 years, Chuck told me that she was in a sorry state when he bought her. She’d been garaged for about 4 years and Mrs. Beard had been a heavy smoker!

Chuck, Linda and Mike had brought their scrapbook of their time with the Riviera and we spent a happy hour looking through it at all the restoration that Chuck and Mike had carried out, and at how many car shows they had attended and how many prizes the car had won, including a silver at the main Buick show of 1992, let down only by the fact that Chuck and Mike had substituted modern tires and headlamps for the old, original type items. Chuck was kicking himself; a gold would have added thousands to the value of the car.

They had kept the Riviera in the family for thirteen years, selling her to a “collector” in 2006, who only kept her for a short while before selling her on to Kent Peterson, from whom we bought her about two years ago.

Afterwards. Chuck and Mike took turns at driving the old girl around the quiet local streets and both remarked that she drove better than they could remember. I told Chuck that he should be looking to buy a good ’65 Riviera next!

As they were on their way back to Indiana, where they hail from, we all visited “Woody’s”, the local hostelry overlooking John’s Pass, before they headed for home. Chuck, Linda, Mike, it has been a great pleasure to meet you; come back soon, you’re always welcome.

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