

OPEN LETTER TO THE PWA MEMBERSHIP

To say that it was embarrassing for me to break down while accepting a valued award on behalf of Wally Parks understates my humiliation. It was my intent to remind all members in attendance at the ceremony in Las Vegas that Mr. Parks knew about the award, because he and I had discussed it on several prior occasions. I had explained to him the importance of the recognition-that he was only the eighth dignitary to receive the prestigious PWA honor-and he was deeply moved in being selected.

Wally and I enjoyed a closer-than-normal friendship that endured more than 50 years. For me to accept an honor on his behalf, after his passing on September 28, was very humbling and quite difficult. I thought I could muster the strength and composure to recite the pleasure he revealed to me at being chosen by a group of industry leaders-the PWA members-who chose to pay tribute to him for his vision and hard work. But it was not to be; I tried in vain not to break down, but emotions won out.

Mr. Parks was not one to take for granted this award of significance. If there was any regret, it was that he couldn't be with us at the breakfast to personally thank the PWA members for their gratitude. He was a humble man, arguing repeatedly that the founding of hot rodding, drag racing, and the industry that serves it was not of his doing, but involved many dedicated individuals along the way. Indeed there were many involved; however, as the patriarch of all that is hot rodding, it was his vision, tenacity, strong belief in the potential of the sport, and his clever resourcefulness that provided a sport serving millions, and a movement that resulted in a thriving multibillion-dollar industry to serve the enthusiasts.

As I wrote for NHRA, "It was the person, the individual, the personality, the charisma that made him the man, the respected leader and mentor we knew him to be. He was an innovator to be immortalized not for what he bought, but for what he built; not for what he got, but for what he gave." It was these traits, we can proudly reference, that earned him the prestigious PWA award. He is quite possibly the most deserving of the eight who have been so honored.

Again, my apologies for "breaking down" at such a critical time. But when one loses a friend who was so close and so influential, it isn't easy to say goodbye, certainly not when standing before an elite group of business partners, the individuals who represent the companies that make up the PWA membership.

Thank you for your understanding.

Dick Wells

A NEW FACE OF MAGNAFLOW, JOCELYN IRELAND

MagnaFlow Performance Exhaust is pleased to announce that the beautiful Jocelyn Ireland is joining MagnaFlow's team as the new Miss MagnaFlow. Jocelyn will function as MagnaFlow's spokesmodel and will appear at a variety of functions to sign autographs and interact with MagnaFlow customers and automotive enthusiasts. Well-versed on MagnaFlow products, she is not just a pretty face... she is an automotive and racing enthusiast in her own right. Visit www.magnaflo.com to view a video of Jocelyn's photoshoot and to download her new desktop and cell phone wallpapers. Also, look for Jocelyn on the cover of Import Tuner's December 2007 issue! Jocelyn can be seen at consume and trade events and in MagnaFlow marketing materials throughout 2008.

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