

# Legacy Links



**PRESERVING OLD LA VERNE'S ENVIRONMENT:  
MAKING HISTORY FOR THE FUTURE**

**LA VERNE HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
PO Box 7761 La Verne, Ca 91750  
909-596-4679 lvhs@lavernehistoricalsociety.org

July 2022

## Every Picture Tells a Story: Rolling with the International

This edition of *Legacy Links* celebrates the progress that has been made to restore the 1938 International truck that represents the “face” of the LVHS. On July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022, the International rested regally on the bed of a Sanders Towing flatbed trailer and rode through the streets of La Verne. A sign acknowledged the important contribution of students from Rob Zamboni’s auto shop class at Bonita High School. LVHS members, aided by a Bonita student, marched with the truck and passed out flyers telling a little of its history and urging residents to donate.



All dressed up and ready to ride!



The International gets a final cleaning before shipping out from Old Anvil Speed Shop

LVHS President Sherry Best hitches a ride with Sanders Towing while the International rides high behind





**LA VERNE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
1938 IH TRUCK**

**Old Anvil's work crew**

The following work performed by Paul Bosserman and the work crew at Old Anvil Speed Shop reflects the huge amount of labor involved in this project:

- Finish chassis repair & mount spring hangers
- Chemical dip for rear differential
- Strip front axle on donor axle
- Cut ends off and re-weld onto existing axle
- Fill gap to strengthen & sand smooth to match
- Reassemble front axle
- Shorten drag link
- Install brakes
- Clean shackle parts
- Start on fixing fender mounts
- Install front leaf springs
- Hang front axle
- Mock up rear leaf springs
- Hang rear axle & leaf springs
- Modified lower plates for rear axle
- Mount truck cab body to determine fit
- Work on fixing front fenders
- Fix running board
- Mount steering column
- Start mounting front fenders
- Hang front fenders & core support/grille
- Remove LH side rear caliper to free hub
- Adjust front wheels/tires

- Mount rear wheels/tires
- Fabricate & mount modified rear wheel spacer rings
- Mock up hood support rods
- Cut & weld driver side hoop
- Mock up drag link for steering box
- Modify pitman arm for drag link
- Mock up hood support bracket
- Install hood
- Center & mount motor & transmission
- Machine out Dayton wheel clips
- Install door latches
- Finish building trans mount & tack weld to frame
- Find sufficient springs for rear body mount
- Find door latches, soak & clean
- Re-grease to free moving parts
- Install door latches, inside door handles, & LH handle (missing RH outside handle)
- Check fitment of doors - open/close
- Change hardware out on steering arm & drag link
- Lift body & install rear body mount springs
- Adjust steering stops

Most of the previous list reads like a foreign language to those unfamiliar with automotive repair, but it illustrates the impressive amount of work necessary to make the International functional and safe. We are more than half way through the project.



**Parade marchers/riders (L to R) Brenda Gonzalez, Sherry Best, Jeremiah Weetly, Betty Tracy, & Brian Tracy. John Best also marched and took this photo**

## Next Steps:

The International will stay at the home of John and Sherry Best for a couple of weeks, then return to Old Anvil for the remaining work needed to get it rolling. It will then return to Bonita High School for a reunion with Rob Zamboni's advanced auto shop students, who will perform the following work:

- Finish polishing exterior
- Treat exterior to arrest rust & apply clear coat
- Dismount/remount cab from body
- Install side mirrors
- Install dash gauges
- Install hoses
- Install radiator
- Install glass in window, side mirrors, & windshield
- Paint frame, rims, & Dayton spokes
- Other work as indicated

Once Bonita High School students turn the International back to the LVHS, a new chapter will begin. A metal frame will need to be fabricated to hold a wood bed behind the cab. The stake bed panels will need to go up and a sound system installed to broadcast music and speech from the bed. The truck will then start appearing at events in La Verne.

We are still about \$15,000 short of our goal. A donation of tires from Carlos and Maria Saccetto of Eckles Auto Body Shop in Whittier, plus cash donations from Brian Bowcock and Charles Tachdjian of American Classic Cars, got the International to the parade. Donations in-person and from GoFundMe patrons, plus sales of t-shirts, marmalade, and books, paid for work along the way. Sherry and John Best have pledged to buy a motor home cover to protect the International and a generator and speakers to power the sound system. Restoring this old truck is like restoring a historic home: you don't know the extent of the work until you open it up. Project Director Erik Chaputa searched the United States for replacement front and rear assemblies after we discovered the originals were beyond restoration. The replacement

parts were found in a salvage yard in Florida and shipped to Old Anvil for further machining and installation. The front and rear axles were cut down to fit our truck model. To make the tires safe, the original split rims were replaced with specially machined rims to hold more contemporary tires. The original Dayton spokes were replaced with new spokes machined to look like the originals. Spacers between the two sets of rear tires were also machined. Because the goals were safety and functionality, the LVHS board committed to Old Anvil Speed Shop for the individualized, but expensive work necessary to provide us with a truck that will serve the city of La Verne for years to come. Thank you for displaying pride in your community



**NEW LVHS Members**

Kathy & Bob White  
Jay Stallings