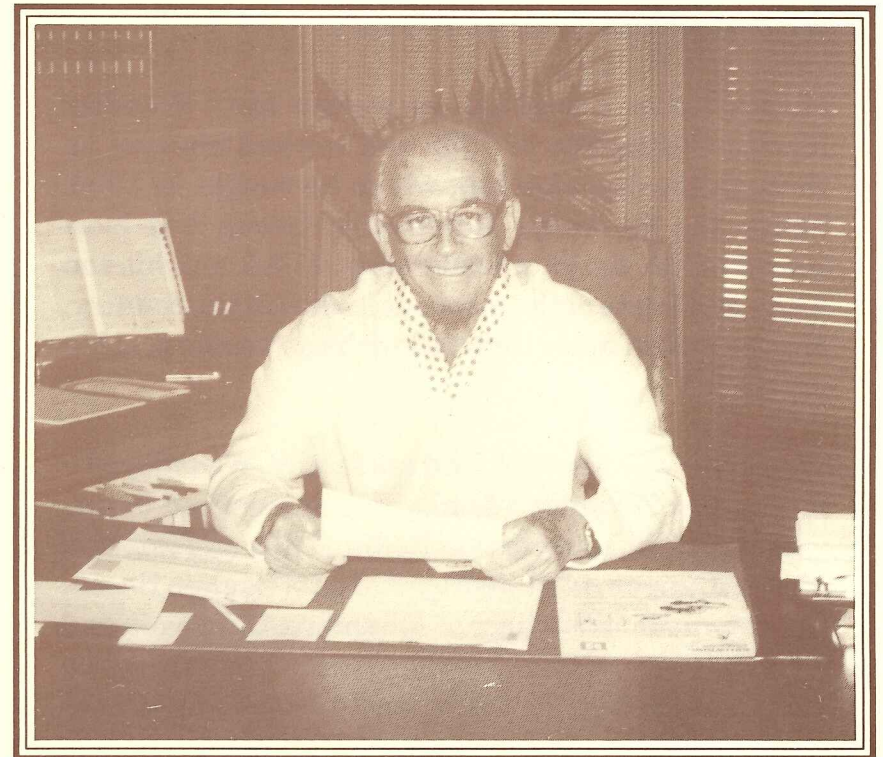


In Memory of

RICHARD D. BROWNING

In Appreciation

*On behalf of the family . . . we wish to
express their gratitude for your kindness
and sympathy evidenced by your presence
at this memorial service.*



May 13, 1912 — August 12, 1991

OBITUARY

Dick Browning was born in Grand Junction, Colorado on May 13, 1912 and moved to Long Beach in 1921. He graduated from Long Beach Poly High School in 1932. While at Poly High he met his sweetheart, Verla Robertson. They married on July 9, 1934 and just celebrated their 57th anniversary.

He started as a used car lot worker at C. Standlee Martin Oldsmobile in 1935 and worked his way up through the organization, which he bought in 1960. Today the Browning Automotive Group has blossomed under the joint leadership of Dick and his son Kent, and is one of the most successful in the country. He was still actively involved with the business at his passing.

Dick's life was his work and his family. We enjoyed a large, close, extended family. He is survived by his wife Verla, his sons Kent of Rolling Hills and Roger of Malibu Canyon, his daughter Karen of Laguna Beach, his sisters Marie Wallace of Alhambra, California and Alberta Pryor of Cool, California, his brother-in-law George Robertson of Texas, and eight loving grandchildren. They are all here with him today.

Dick passed on in his home after a short illness on the morning of August 12, 1991.

THOUGHTS AND MEMORIES OF DICK, FATHER, GRANDFATHER

"For a man to be fulfilled in life,
he needs two things — love and work."

Sigmund Freud

Dick was fulfilled in life. He was born on May 13, 1912 in Grand Junction, Colorado, the youngest of four children of a farming family. When he was nine years old, the family packed what they could in suitcases, boarded a train, and came to "the promised land" - Long Beach, California. The family opened a small coffee shop on Fourth Street in downtown Long Beach, where the whole family pitched in and worked. Dick attended Long Beach Poly High School and graduated in 1932 during the heart of the depression. Times were tough then, but Dick already had the work ethic. He worked in the restaurant, had an early morning route delivering pies, and was a caddie at Virginia Country Club. He loved golf, and his great joy was when the caddies were allowed to play nine holes. He dreamt of one day becoming a member at Virginia.

It was on the Long Beach Poly High Senior Ditch Day, on the boat to Catalina, that he connected with pretty little brown-haired Verla Robertson. They danced together all the way across the channel and back. Dick and Verla continued dating after high school.

The Depression continued, and the family pulled together, everyone working two or three jobs. Dick's mother, Betty Browning, gave away more food to patrons who could not afford to pay than the family sold at the restaurant. Verla got a job at Kress' Five and Ten Cent Store in Long Beach. Dick continued to pursue her. One of his favorite songs remained, "I Found a Million Dollar Baby in a Five and Ten Cent Store." Dick was living with his sister, Alberta, and Verla was living in a little apartment down from the restaurant with her friend, Velma. As both their families contemplated moves back to the midwest, to hopefully make a better living, Dick and Verla eloped and married in 1934, telling no one for a while.

Dick was looking for a full time job when a friend told him of an opening for a lot boy, cleaning and detailing used cars at C. Standlee Martin Oldsmobile. He interviewed with Mr. Martin who told him that the job did not pay enough to support a wife, but he took the job. And, so, he became the world's best dressed lot boy. Dick was always dapper; his

shoes were always shined and his clothes were always pressed. Rumor has it that he wore starched shirts while he washed the cars. Dick and Verla both worked, and Dick achieved promotions through the dealership, working in the parts department, service department, used car sales, new car sales, and then becoming general manager in the mid 1940's.

Meanwhile, Dick and Verla started their family. Their first son Roger was born in 1940, their daughter Karen in 1944, and their son Kent in 1948. While Dick was continuing to run the auto dealership and negotiate a buyout of Standlee Martin which culminated in 1960, he was also focused on his immediate and extended family. There were a lot of camping trips, and the family saved all year each year for a trip to Lake Arrowhead where they could rent a cabin and a boat.

Family was always of the highest importance to Dick. It was an extended family in the American farm tradition. There were big family gatherings for birthdays and holidays, with home made ice cream and a combined effort feast. There never seemed to be any generation gap at these gatherings, and it was usual to see three generations involved in a game of Yahtzee or Rummy Tiles or badminton. Dick and Roger used to play in golf tournaments together. Dick and Kent built go-carts and went to baseball games. Karen was her father's daughter. Fathers were supposed to love and take care of daughters, and that he did. And he always loved and cared for Verla. She was his "peaches and cream."

While the family was growing, Dick was attending to business as only he could. He was a stickler for detail, and he had a batch of pet phrases like "Anything worth doing is worth doing right," or "You do the hardest thing first every morning," or "In golf, as in life, never up; never in. You've got to go for it to get it." He demanded a lot of himself and of those with whom he worked. After Kent graduated with an accounting degree and had worked as a CPA for a while, he went to work with Dick at the now renamed Browning Oldsmobile dealership. Together Dick and Kent moved the Oldsmobile dealership to Cerritos and built the business to where today there are six separate dealerships in the Browning Automotive Group. While doing this, Dick was always active in community affairs: the Boy's Club, Community Chest, United Way, Kiwanis Club, California Heights Methodist Church, Southern California Tuna Club, and Long Beach Motor Car Dealers' Association. Currently Cerritos Acura is the No. 1 Acura dealership in the nation, Cerritos Dodge is the No. 1 Dodge dealership in the nation, and Browning Oldsmobile-Mitsubishi is the largest Oldsmobile dealership west of the Mississippi. Dick was still actively involved in the business at the onset of his short illness. Kent continues to run the dealerships today.

With a loan from Dick, Roger and his partner opened a law practice which now employs thirteen lawyers. Karen earned a teaching credential, and she now lives in Laguna Beach, where, in addition to

raising her family and teaching nursery school, she runs half of the significant community activities of Laguna Beach, including the PTA, Laguna Beach Marathon, the Senior Class parties, etc.

The success of his work has provided a foundation for the family. Dick used the results of his hard work and good fortune to share with others. He always looked for opportunities to do for and give to others, extending to stranger and friend alike, but he never wanted others to do or buy things for him. Whenever a relative had a problem, Dick was there, not only with material help, but also with lots of encouragement. He gave generously to the greater community. He would take his twenty-plus member extended family on family vacations. Dick was greatly involved with his eight grandchildren. He always kept current with what each of his grandchildren was doing. He always had suggestions. He set up a fund to put each of his grandchildren through college. Family trips were always in the planning - to a dude ranch in Colorado, to Hawaii . . . Family gatherings were organized at Arrowhead or at one of the children's homes.

Dick became a senior member of the Virginia Country Club where he once was a caddie. He bought a lakefront home on Lake Arrowhead where he once saved for family vacations, and C. Standlee Martin Oldsmobile has metamorphosed into the Browning Automotive Group.

Through it all, Dick remained a simple man who kept his roots down to earth. He was opinionated, and he was headstrong. You always knew what he was thinking. He was also committed. Dick was with one woman for fifty-seven years, and he maintained a group of friends since the 1930's. He loved Verla, his family, and the outdoors. He loved to go to the mountains in his camper. He loved to be in control, and he loved cleanliness and order. Around the neighborhood he carried the nickname "Mr. Clean," and he washed off the sidewalks and patios of his neighbors, as well as his own. He had a short, pain free illness, spent in the home he loved, surrounded by the people he loved. And when, on Sunday, the control and the order seemed to be escaping him, Dick decided to move on. And where he now is you can be sure that the sidewalks will be cleaner.

Throughout his life Dick has had love and work as the center core. He truly has been fulfilled. The love and the work continue. In this room are his family and many of the people whom he loved and who loved him. And in Kent's capable hands, Browning Automotive Group continues.

Thank you for coming to share our loss and to celebrate the gift of Dick's life.

IN MY MERRY OLDSMOBILE

Come along with me Verla Cecile,

In my merry Oldsmobile.

Down the road of life we'll fly

Automobubbling you and I.

To the church well swiftly steal,

Then our wedding bells will peal.

You can go as far as you like with me,

In my merry Oldsmobile.

In Memory of

RICHARD D. BROWNING

Born

May 13, 1912

Grand Junction, Colorado

Passed Away

August 12, 1991

Long Beach, California

Memorial Service

August 15, 1991 - 1:30 P.M.

California Heights Methodist Church

Officiant

Dr. William H. Hobbs

Eulogies

Charles Pryor

Jim Crooker

Organist

James Haberkorn

Interment

Forest Lawn Sunnyside

Directed by

Stricklin/Snively Mortuary