

# Meet a "NILPSie"!!!



**This Month's NILPSie:** Bob La Brash  
**Birth Year:** 1949  
**ALPCA #:** 2736  
**NILPS #:** L 7  
**Residence:** Phoenix, AZ, born & raised in Phoenix



## **How did you start Collecting Plates? Did you have someone who was your mentor?**

In 1976, I bought a basket 1929 Ford Coupe and was going to restore it. While on a short vacation early in 1977 in Safford, AZ, I was in a junk shop and asked about a 1929 plate. The guy at the store said there was a box of plates over in a corner, but had no clue what was in the box. I looked through the box and found a nice pair of AZ 1929s, #11-000. I asked the guy how much and he said \$8 for the pair, "however, if you want to take the whole box it would \$20" he added. The box held about 60 plates most were either 1929 or 1931 and a couple new, so I bought the box. My wife, Christine, was upset yelling "what are you going to do with ALL those plates." There has to be others in the Model A Club looking for a plate for their car like me.

## **How did you hear about ALPCA and NILPS? When did you join?**

**ALPCA** – I was at a local automobile swap meet selling some of my plates and a whole bunch of old car stuff. I think it was Wes Campbell, (who has now passed) said there was a club for collecting plates. There is even local license meets in Arizona where you can sell & buy plates. I was invited to the next meet at Bobby Taylor's home and met Roy Carson, Bob and Stan Rutt again (I worked at Sears busting tires and Stan was a salesman selling tires in the same store). I joined ALPCA in 1977.

**NILPS** – Roy Carson was over at my home one evening after a local meet in AZ and a question arose about another license plate club maybe have an annual meet in Henderson, NV. He stated that he could start and host the meets. There were so few ALPCA meets in the west, this way we could have regular meets out west. I think I joined very early the 1<sup>st</sup> year was number #49, & later my wife Christine became #129 for a year or two. The funds were tight for a while getting the club on its feet so life memberships were offered and I became L 7.

**NUMBER PLATE CLUB of Australia** – have been a member since 1978 #191. Have collected Aussie plates for years.

## **What plates do you collect and what are your favorites? Where do you get most of your plates?**

**AZ 1929, 1930, 1931 Odd type sets** – have a lot of unusual plates for these years

**1949 birth year** – US & Canada have all except for NWT – Foreign with 1949 dates on them. AZ odd 1949 stuff.

**1954 AZ non-passenger set of all types** – want vg – mint plates only, have 20 types

**AZ City & Town plates**, have about 70 different types prefer the older steel plates rather than the newer Aluminum plates

**1929 US & Canada** have all except or the territories; Alaska, Hawaii, New Foundland & Yukon. 2003 National ALPCA Meet this collection won 2<sup>nd</sup> Place!!

**New Zealand** – have an almost complete run of NZ plates from 1925 to 1965. Once the newer type plates came out I am not interested.

**AZ 1936, 1937 & 1938 County Series** missing a few hard ones.

## **Do you have any tips for newer collectors on the best places to acquire plates?**

Look under every rock! You never know where you will find the plate of your dreams!

**How often do you make it to NILPS events?**

I try to make at least three local meets a year. I have missed only 3 Henderson Meets, 2 which were in Reno and one when I was in New Zealand!

**Which plate in your collection has the best story?**

It is sad, but I did acquire a number of nice unusual plates. License Plate collector George Rushworm had a cold that eventually destroyed his heart, and a few months later his heart exploded. I took it on myself to help Tami his wife get rid of his nice runs of AZ plates and lot of the really expensive stuff. Anyway after getting rid of a lot of plates, I had been their garage a lot over many months, I really liked the cabinets which George keep his plates and some of his collections, Tami mentioned a few times when selling his stuff she wanted to keep the cabinets. I never pushed the issue, but one Friday morning while cleaning up in the garage just after a guy just came over a bought George's 31 Model A Phaeton and was taken it to a new home, I asked about all the rusty plates all over the garage wall. If you can imagine, there was stacks of plates 2' high all around the inside of the 2 car garage. She wanted know if I wanted them. Well, I had no place to store them! Out of the blue she offered me 3 of the storage cabinets in with whatever deal we could come up with. I stuck a deal and it took 2 full loads in my 1964 Chevrolet PU long bed to get the rusty plates to my home, it also took another 2 trips to get the cabinets home too. By the way, it was not all rust after I cleaned all the plates. In two of the cabinets were George's collections, I tried to return them to Tami, but she wanted me to have them for helping her in the time of need for her family. Tami is remarried and lives in Colorado. I will never forget Tami & George!! By the way, my original paint 1915 AZ was one of Tami's plates that she wanted to keep.

**How many plates are in your collection? What types? What do you wish you had more of?** About 1000, Collections listed above. I would like more 1949 plates world-wide but they must have the date on them.

**Do you display your plates?**

Yes!

**What other non-license plate hobbies do you have?**

I own & drive a 1929 Ford Coupe, model # 45A, mostly stock. I Have owned two others which have been sold within the last year, 1931 Panel Delivery, model # 79B, 1 of 59 known, 1931 AA (1.5 ton) Deluxe Delivery, model # 300A, 1 of 2 known (Co-owned and restored truck with Paul Black)

I'm very active in the Model A Restorers Club of Arizona, try to attend & drive a Model A Ford National Meets around the US each year. 2003 was in Dearborn, MI

Dog tags for Dogs – 1931 and older, mostly Western US, but like Arizona Best

County Collecting, Driving a Model A Ford. Have been in the lower 48 states with my 1929 Coupe. As of July 21, 2003, I have been in 928 Counties!

Double-Headed Crescent Wrenches

I have an extensive collection of original ads for fashions for the Model A Ford Era (1928 –1931), including many ads and brochures for the Model A Ford

Hike with the Kactus Kickers Hiking Club, try to lead at least one hike a year.

**Be a part of your Regional! Let's get to know you! Contact Clark Wothe if you have not yet been featured for "Meet a NILPSie" in our club's meet flyer. We all have an interesting story. What's yours?**