



Bill Lowe was born in Riverside, California on November 16, 1954. He grew up and attended schools in Riverside, graduating from Ramona High School in 1973. He worked at Jack in the Box in Corona for a number of years before going to work at Vulcan Aluminum recycling in Corona in the 1980s. While there, he saved money to pay for tuition to attend California Culinary Academy in San Francisco 1987-88. After graduating from CCA, he went to work at the Wilshire Grand Hotel in Los Angeles, where he worked until the original building was closed and torn down in 2012. He then worked in the Theme Building (Dome) restaurant until he retired in 2016.

In 1975, he bought his first Studebaker, a 1965 Cruiser, which he drove back and forth weekly to Blythe, where he helped open and train the crew for the Blythe Jack-in-the-Box store in 1977. He called his Cruiser "The Gullywumper." He later traded it for a red 1962 GT Hawk. In the 1990s, he bought 2 Larks, a 1959 and 1961. He later inherited his brother George's 1958 Silver Hawk, which he restored in 2012-2013.

He served as Vice President and President of the BCOIC, attending the La Palma meet faithfully each year for the past two decades. He went to La Palma for the first time in 1977. His warm personality and quick sense of humor touched many lives. He had many, many friends from all walks of life. He died on March 6, following months of struggle with cancer. He will certainly be missed.

Frank Lowe

Note: A special recognition to Bill who was instrumental in resurrecting the BCOIE (Beach Cities, Orange, Inland Empire of Southern California) Chapter's website (www.StudebakerSoCal.com) and the re-design of the chapter logo in his effort to reach new members.

