



New Tires for Old Cars

by Paul Diamond, Diamond Tire Center

If you're driving a vintage car –or aspire to –like those you see at this Classic Car Show where do you find tires for it? Thanks to Harold and Corky Coker of Chattanooga, tires for virtually any vintage car may be located, shipped and installed in just a day or two.

Back in 1958, Harold Coker, wanted to supply collector car friends with tires for antique cars, trucks and motorcycles. But you don't find tires that fit vintage vehicles just laying around in an old barn somewhere. And if you did they wouldn't be fit to drive on.

So the Cokers –father and son – set out on a world-wide treasure hunt looking for tire molds. Their travels took them to South America, the Philippines and Australia – anywhere there might have been an old tire factory. When molds couldn't be found, the Cokers found drawings of molds and re-created historic tire molds.

Arrangements were made for factories in the United States to reproduce early American tires, and contracts signed with manufacturers in Taiwan, Chile, Vietnam and India to create tires that were originally manufactured overseas.

Now...if you're thinking of buying a 1959 Alfa Romeo, a '48 Nardi-Danese or a '50s muscle car, tires from Coker Tires installed by a reliable local tire dealer can keep you driving safely.

Paul Diamond is the owner of Diamond Tire Center of San Rafael.