

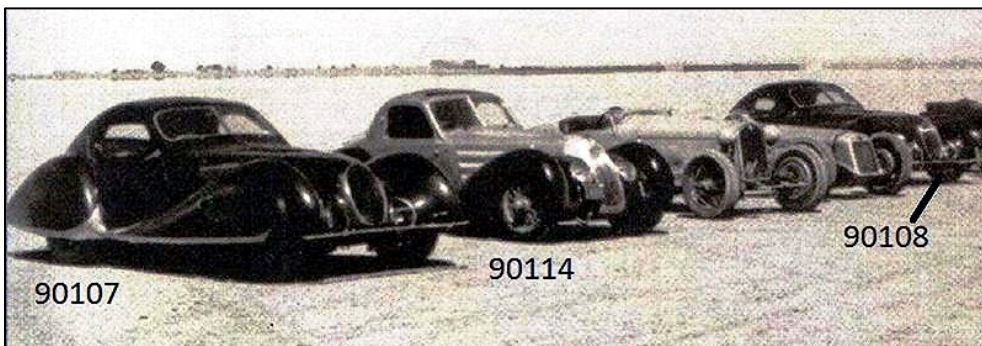
Thomas Stewart Lee, better known as Tommy Lee was the son of Don Lee, the famous radio mogul, California's most prominent Cadillac dealer and the owner of Don Lee Coachworks. Don's deal with Cadillac was that he got a cut off every Cadillac sold in California. Tommy grew up in the thriving automotive world of Southern California and was constantly surrounded by larger-than-life Hollywood stars, exceptional automobiles and conspicuous wealth. At a young age, he developed an unbridled enthusiasm for all things mechanical and became a talented sailor in addition to developing his budding automotive skills.

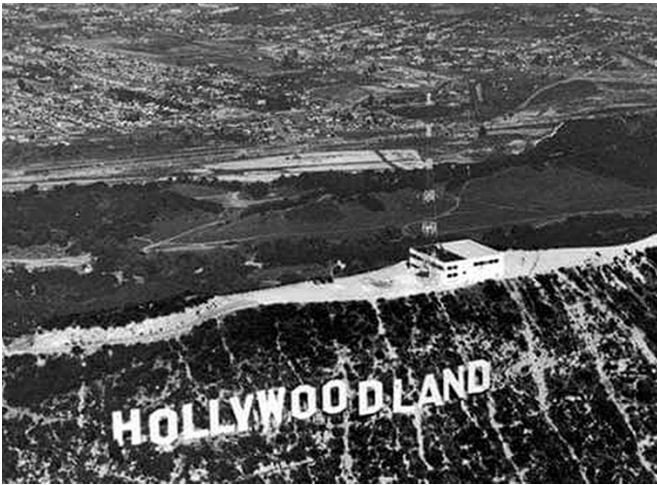


When his father died at age 53 in 1934, 28 years old Tommy Lee was left a fortune. A fortune that included seven Cadillac dealerships. One of the richest single men in Los Angeles, Southern California was Tommy's proverbial oyster. He was connected to some of Hollywood's best-known actresses, had fabulous homes and lived in the lap of luxury. But his undying passion was automobiles and Tommy indulged in his beloved hobby. Over the years, he owned several 8C Alfas, Talbot-Lago Teardrops, Bugattis and two amazing Grand Prix cars – a 1927 Delage and a 1939 Mercedes-Benz. His fabulous cars were featured in the pages of Road & Track and he became so intrigued by California's dry lakes – where he could test the full performance of his collection – that he bought a home near Muroc.

In 1936 Tommy contracted Frank Kurtis to build him the fastest and best looking hot rod in Southern California. The build was completed in in 1937, and is known as the 1937 Kurtis Tommy Lee Special.

In 1939 Tommy bought two 1938 Talbot Lago 150 SS' that were shipped to the USA the same year. These had chassis numbers #90108 and #90107. Tommy owned four Talbot Lago's that he raced. He purchased them through Luigi Chinetti, the famous Ferrari dealer and authorized representative of the Figoni et Falsachi coachwork house of Paris.





"Tommy" Lee was a pioneer in bringing television to Southern California. In 1931 he built the first transmitter in Los Angeles and later moved it in 1939 to the top of Mt. Lee in the Hollywood Hills. Known today as station KTSL, for years it was known only by its call number, W6XAO. In another first, Lee received the initial permit in the Southland for full commercialization of television programs starting July 1, 1941.

<https://www.earlytelevision.org/w6xao.html>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Don_Lee_Network

As a result of a vertebra injury sustained in an automobile accident, Lee was declared mentally incompetent in a medical hearing on August 27, 1948. Less than a year after being declared incompetent, Lee's petition to terminate his guardianship was denied by a judge who personally interviewed him at a Pasadena sanitarium. On January 13, 1950, Lee flew in his private plane (Grumman Mallard) from Palm Springs to Los Angeles for a dental appointment in the Pellissier Building on 3780 Wilshire Boulevard. While his nurse and pilot parked the car, the 43-year-old entered the building alone, made his way to the 12th floor, and after smoking part of a cigarette, jumped out of a fire escape window.

Guardians named for estate of mentally ill Thomas Lee

Thomas Stuart Lee, 42, today relinquished control of his broadcasting and automobile business to two court-appointed guardians, following his having been declared mentally incompetent last Aug. 27.

Lee's aunt, Mrs. Nora S. Patee, 642 Canterbury Rd., San Marino, was appointed his personal guardian.

The head of Thomas S. Lee Enterprises, Inc., which owns and operates Don Lee Broadcasting System and Cadillac and Oldsmobile Distributors, is now in the Pasadena Sanitarium, 1625 Meridian Ave.

In a quiet hearing at the sanitarium last Aug. 27, Lee was declared incompetent on the affidavit of his personal physician, Dr. George N. Thompson. Dr. Thompson said Lee had been un-



—Daily News photo.

THOMAS S. LEE
Declared incompetent

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