

# GAS GAUGE

AUGUST 2004

Official newsletter of  
Ye Olde Car Club of Tri Cities Inc



Joe Kuhns bought a new one rather he traded for a new one

## CLUB OFFICERS

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## 4TH OF JULY PARADE

### Another award winning function!

I must not be very patriotic because I was not at the Parade. We did have quite a showing, 14 cars I am told. Hmm .....maybe that was because I wasn't there. Hmmm! From the pictures I can see that Jim Vetrano was there with his Cady, Martha and Vern brought the blue Hup and



the Dodge pickup, Earnie and Judy Oeader were there in the Met, Jack Yale with the 31 Chrysler, Eldon Reiman and his

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39 Chrysler, and I think I see Bud Williams and his 60 something Chevrolet convertible, Ed Edwards came in his 52? Ford, and guess what !! John Nelson came with his Screen side, I think I also see Wayne Williams hiding his 55 studebaker behind some trees. If any one else was there and I missed them, I am sorry, but someone was going to send me more pictures and a list of people.



Speaking of John Nelson, we now have proof positive that he has a part time job.



He delivers stray dogs to Chinese Restaurants

## Not a mule for Sarah, but a bus for Martha

I know That Martha really likes her Hupmobile, but I think we have found the perfect vehicle for her. Check it out . With this bus she can still pretend that she is a school bus driver, and be an antique vehicle collector.. This does not look like it needs any work at all, so that will give Vern some time off.



The bus is a 1938 model. The school district mentioned on the side of the bus did actually use a 1939 model , or vise-versa, I don't remember. What do you expect for the wages you pay me?

## Screenside Update

It appears as though the screen side is all done, except for paint.



Dave Underwood did most of the construction, Jim Vetrano drew the plans and had the wood donated. He also made the fenders. Bob McClary donated and fabricated the wheels. Dennis Jackson made the spokes for the wheels, and Vern Shreve donated the headlights. If I missed any one let me know

and a retraction and apology will be printed next month. The plans are to donate the screenside to the "Corks Place" in September sometime. In the mean time the vehicle will be trailered in the Benton/Franklin Co. Parade.



(Continued from page 3)

Cool dash board HUH? There is plenty of room in the back for a mess of kids, or one very tired adult.



This was a fun project and a worthy one. The kids at the "Crisis center" will enjoy for years to come and I for one am very glad to have been a part of it. This Vehicle has been kid tested and approved by Dave Underwood's grand daughter.



Thanks again to everyone involved!

# A Diamond in the Rough.

## On Wheels

*How many car buffs dream of finding a treasure in an old barn? That's what happened to him!*

**WHILE HELPING** a neighboring farmer clean out his buildings for a retirement auction in 1995, Steve Carlson of Stanhope, Iowa came across a 1920 Oldsmobile 1-ton truck.

Last licensed in 1938, the truck had been parked in the barn since 1952, Steve learned. His neighbor's brother had bought it from the original owner and stored it in the barn, planning to restore it someday.

Steve and his brother-in-law, Ron Meyer, quickly offered to buy the old truck before the auction. Steve won't reveal the purchase price, but he says so far no one has been able to tell him what the 78-year-old truck is worth.

"This was really quite a truck in its day," Ron says. "The chassis was standard, but buyers could choose what kind of body they wanted." In this case, an open box was selected. It's made of wood, as is the cab.

Other parts of the truck were pretty advanced for the time. Ron points out. "The fuel pump, tire size and heavy metal used for the fenders are examples. Plus, the four-cylinder, 24-horsepower overhead valve Norway engine was specially designed to run in cold weather."

"Run" is a relative term for a truck built in 1920—a faded metal plate on the dashboard warns the driver that the warranty will be void if the truck is driven over 22 miles per hour!

In Steve's farm shop, the truck's tires were replaced and the engine brought back to life. Before the truck was entered in its first parade in the summer of 1995 in Stanhope, there was no time for cosmetic restoration.

The next summer, while Steve and Ron tinkered with the old truck, an engine bearing went out. Even though it couldn't run under its own power, the two enjoyed working on the truck and planning what to do next.

It was Ron's wife, Patti, who first learned of the big gathering in Lansing, Michigan in 1997 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Oldsmobile company. Oldsmobile owners were invited to bring their vehicles of any age.

After quickly building an enclosed trailer for the truck, the men, their wives and the wives' parents headed for Michigan.

"It was quite a show," Steve says. And their truck turned out to be a

big part of it, since only 20 of that model exist.

### The Authentic Article

Because Steve and Ron's truck was the only one at the show not restored, other owners flocked around it to see if their restoration work was authentic to the original.

The truck also attracted the attention of someone from the Ford Museum in Dearborn, who invited the men to a festival there 2 weeks later.

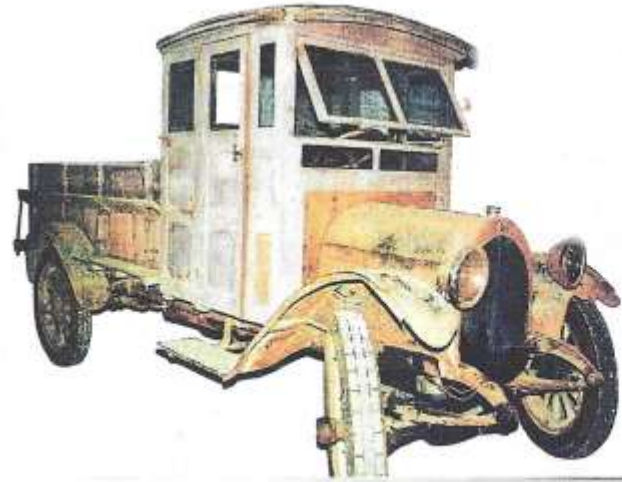
"We didn't realize what we had until we went to Dearborn," Patti says. There, visitors treated the truck even more reverentially, and the owners knew what a unique antique they owned.

The curator of the Ford Museum gave them some tips on cleaning the wood and urged them to make some "Do Not Touch" signs to attach

to the truck when it's on display.

Now that they fully appreciate the rarity of their "find", Steve and Ron are getting serious about its restoration.

With a faraway look in his eyes, Steve muses, "I know of another antique Oldsmobile truck in Pennsylvania that's available for parts..."



### UNRESTORED BEAUTY

The 1920 truck (above) was a big draw at the 100th birthday celebration of Oldsmobile in Lansing, Michigan in 1997.

Right, Ron and Steve Carlson posed with their truck, while wives Patti (left) and Lori got a view from the wooden cab.



## CARS FOR SALE



This is Dave's 1938 60 Special Cadillac, 5 passenger sedan, first year for this model. V-8 engine will allow you to keep up with traffic. Drives very well. Was restored in early 90's. The side windows have chrome surrounds, which was rare then and now.

This is one of Dave Underwood's collection, offered now for \$24,000. Call Dave at 509-627-2820 for appt. to view, drive, listen, etc...



This one is his 1941 60 SR- Factory sun roof (stable mate to the one above) only 185 were built, Maybe a couple dozen survive to day. Still original has all factory options available then, like backup lights, Windshield washers, auto transmission.

This was the car Kings and Queens and Presidents were driven in in the 40's Cheap at \$25,000 call Dave 509-627-2820 with questions or whatever.



## Things to do in Aug & Sept

- Aug 7th Wheeling and Healing car and bike show. See page 9
- Aug 21st Benton Franklin Co Parade and Picnic at Jack and Peggy Yale's house after the parade
- Aug 22nd Ice cream social at Fort Walla Walla. See last months Gas Gauge (Page 8) for Details or call Dennis @ 547-0916
- Sept 6th Prosser States Day Parade.
- Sept 18th Tampico Days Parade. Call Dale Henson @ 509-965-9509 for details.
- Sept 28 All Senior Picnic at the Trac. They need 8 to 10 cars in side and even more outside.

We need to take more one day trips this summer. If you think of a trip that we might like, Mention it to Dennis, Martha, or Jack.



This is a community event for a good cause, We should try to make it and help support the efforts of the people trying to made our Community a great place to live.



**SHOW & SHINE**

**Saturday**  
**August 7**  
**10 am - 2 pm**

*Hosted by*  
**First Baptist Church**

3100 W. 27<sup>th</sup> Ave. (27<sup>th</sup> & Hwy 395), Kennewick

For more information or to volunteer contact: Jeff 582-9567 or Dean 374-5702



**Show Entry Details**

- Suggested donation \$15.00.
- Show is open to all makes and models of cars & motorcycles.
- Prize drawings held for entrants
- Show participants please show up at 9:00 a.m. to register and park vehicle

*All proceeds go to Grace Clinic, located in Pasco at 703 W. Clark. Grace Clinic provides free medical care to those without medical insurance or government medical care program.*

**AUGUST BIRTHDAYS**

- |      |                  |
|------|------------------|
| 1st  | Roy Benson       |
| 1st  | Elaine Kutrowski |
| 7th  | Patty Morgan     |
| 7th  | Mary Goldgrave   |
| 13th | Steve Browning   |
| 17th | Carolyn Shreve   |
| 18th | Mercedes Lantz   |
| 22nd | Gayle Noga       |
| 22nd | Odetta Linden    |
| 23rd | Adris Shegrud    |
| 23rd | Julie Solbrack   |
| 26th | Delores Benson   |



**AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES**

- |      |                            |
|------|----------------------------|
| 1st  | Dale & Joyce Burt          |
| 3rd  | Art & Mary Goldgrave       |
| 4th  | Tom & Patty Morgan         |
| 6th  | Ward & Denise Moberg       |
| 8th  | Dale & Kaye Henson         |
| 8th  | Fred & Mary Fraser         |
| 17th | Robert & Sheri Gordon      |
| 24th | John & Rebecca Dawson      |
| 29th | Dwight & Loretta Underwood |



# AUGUST



## 1956 Dodge La Femme

Here is one of the very rare models of the 1950s: the La Femme, a special edition of the Dodge, which was intended to appeal to women only. The series was introduced in the spring of 1955 and again in 1956. An interesting curiosity, the La Femme was not a sales success, as women didn't like to be told that they must prefer pink cars.

In 1954, Chrysler Corp. (manufacturer of Dodge) had built special La Comtesse and Le Comte show cars, designed, respectively, for women and for men. The idea was pursued further in the spring of '55, when the new La Femme was available in limited numbers to the buying public. At this time, Dodge also offered a macho Texan model, in two-tone with special upholstery and added horsepower.

Reportedly, only about 1,100 La Femme Dodges were produced in 1955-1956, and they are certainly collector's cars! Not only did they have special paint jobs, but the interiors were done (in '56) in orchid Jacquard upholstery trimmed with gold Cordagrain vinyl. The '56 La Femme had a pair of special containers on the backs of the front seats. The 1955 La Femmes had harmonizing purses, compacts, combs, cigarette holders, raincoat and cap, and other special matching accessories to please the gals. A rain cape and cap and umbrella were also included with the '56 La Femme. And, I mustn't forget to mention the special gold-and-gray cardboard box that was also supplied to store some of the small accessories.

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