

YE OLDE CAR CLUB, INC OF TRI-CITIES  
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# GAS GAUGE

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Ye Olde Car Club

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## May 31<sup>st</sup> – Celebrate Family History Night with Mrs. Price's History Class

Those of you who have never met Mrs. Price – well, lets just say you've missed it!! Mrs. Price teaches *20<sup>th</sup> Century United States History* to a flock of eager high school students at Richland High School. Yes, eager!! Mrs. Price is that teacher you wished you had when you were trying to absorb American history, about a half century ago. To expose her students to the 'hands-on' approach to history, she invited the members of *Ye Olde Car Club* to bring their antique cars to the high school for the kids to see and investigate. These are the kinds of cars that her student's parents and grandparents talked about – just stories from another generation, unless they could actually see, touch, listen to, and perhaps, even sit in one.

Several of us participated: Jack Yale brought the '36 Auburn Boat-Tail, Eldon brought his '53 Chrysler, Vern and Martha brought their '25 Hupmobile, I came in the '24 Dodge Brothers Screenside, and Ed (who organized this event) brought a 1930 Model A, a '53 Ford Tudor Sedan, and a '66 Ford Mustang. As always, it was a warm, fun experience for all of us. In addition to a slide show with myriad photographs of the student's own ancestors (going back three and four generations), and the discussions that went with this, there was a smorgasbord of cheesecake, fresh strawberries, cream puffs, chilled water, and more. I'm sure the whole experience was as educational for each of us, as it was for her youngsters.

## RUSS & JANE ARMSTRONG ATTEND TOUR IN CALIFORNIA

Russ and Jane Armstrong attended the 8th annual Durant Motors Automobile Club (DMAC) Meet in Santa Rosa, California hosted by The Pacific Coast Chapter on May 18-22. It was the first long trip for our new to us Dodge diesel pickup with Artic Fox camper towing our 1924 Star Touring. When we left Richland on Tuesday the 17th dressed in shorts, it was cool and damp. As we got closer to California it became colder and wetter, at one point it was 37 degrees. I very quickly switched to a velour sweat suit. When we arrived on Wednesday, it was still pouring and did not look very promising for touring in old cars. We registered, got our tour packets and chewed the fat with other early arrivals.

Thursday morning dawned dry and warmer and everyone was happy at the prospect of not getting drenched. Twelve cars with a total of 34 people had registered for the tour. Russ and I were prepared to dress in vintage clothes for each occasion of the tour and the beautiful black velvet coat I'd recently purchased off eBay felt pretty good in the cool morning hours.

We drove to Sonoma, a beautiful drive through the California countryside. As populous as California is, it's amazing to see so much green open spaces. It was still early enough the wildflowers were blooming profusely; purple, yellow and blue colors dotted the landscape along with orange California poppies.

Our first stop was at a museum of the early history of Sonoma and California. We learned about the significance of the bear on the California flag. We were on our own for lunch and chose a Mexican restaurant. Then we just drove round looking at the town, it was built on the order of Santa Fe with a park in the center and shops on all 4 sides. An older man stopped us in the middle of the street and informed us that his father had been a dealer for Star and Durant. We didn't even have to tell him what we were driving.

I was really excited about this tour because one of the organizers, Sonia Babick had asked me to help with the Fashion Show/Tea scheduled for 7:00 p.m. When we returned to the hotel, Sonia and I finished getting our collection of clothing ready to display that evening. The guys were to have a parking lot seminar on repairs and parts for Durant automobiles. On the previous day, Sonia and

I had unpacked and hung all our dresses on hangers in a closet that was in the hospitality room. On Thursday afternoon we set up a display of accessory items such as parasols, gloves, beaded purses, and hats.

Sonia has an extensive collection of dresses, jackets and coats from 1900 to the 1940's but she was lacking items from the 1923-1924 years. Fortunately that is where most of my clothing fits in since we have a 1924 Star. I showed a few earlier pieces and a few later, but I fit right in the middle of her collection. It was a lot of fun and the ladies all seemed appreciative. Many want to start a collection of vintage clothing appropriate to the year of their car or cars and we talked about ways to do that. One young lady really liked one of my hats and kept trying it on. I thought oh, what the heck, see if she'd like to buy it for what I paid for it and she did. I thought it looked a lot better on her than it did on me anyway. She wore it the rest of the tour.

For the tea I wore a black silk shantung dress with green and black beading. A black straw hat with green feathers set off my dress. I'd been looking for a tea dress in a white, pastel, or print but to no avail. I figured in the 20's a woman my age could have worn black to tea. It was a very popular color back then, still is.

On Friday we drove to Occidental and had Italian food which was excellent and very different from any I'd had before. We visited an antique shop and looked around the little town. I wore a copper colored satin coat dress with a panel of ecru pleating down to the dropped waist and copper colored pleating down to the hem. A brown straw hat with peach colored flowers finished my ensemble.

The annual business meeting of the DMAC Club was that evening. I wore a black satin dress with a "V" lace insert on the bodice and pleating on the skirt. I chose a black beaver hat with a long sweeping feather to go with my dress. The business meeting seemed like a lot of politics to me, the Eastern half of the club members and the Western half don't seem to agree on much.

Russ was awarded a recognition plaque for towing a car the longest distance. By the way, our car ran good the whole tour. The only problem Russ had was getting it started in the morning, but once it started, it ran good. They put us up front because we

were one of the oldest cars and supposedly slower, but we outran everyone.

Saturday was the hottest day of the tour and quite warm, but pleasant. I wore a pink batiste picnic type dress and a duster and was quite comfortable. Our first stop was to see a man's collection of oil cans and old farm equipment. When I first heard oil cans I was thinking of the type used for storing coal oil for lamps. But these were cans like Quaker State and Pennzoil, only there were names I'd never heard of and I go way back. There were thousands of these cans; he had actually make a very neat and attractive arrangement of them on shelves in a small building where there were only oil cans with various names.

Next stop was the White Oak Winery, can't visit Californian without stopping at a winery. It was a small operation, very friendly people, as a souvenir they gave each one of us a wine glass with their name engraved. A catered lunch had been arranged and we ate a boxed lunch on the shaded grounds. Russ asked if they'd heard of Columbia Crest and the owner laughed and said, "Yes, they spill more wine than we make."

The next stop was another winery; it was a much bigger operation than the first. They charged \$5.00 for wine tasting on the first floor and \$10.00 for wine tasting on the basement floor. We passed on the wine tasting but the grounds were absolutely beautiful and so we strolled around and looked at all the beautiful flowers.

That night was the banquet; the food was served buffet style. The presentation was gorgeous and the food delicious. You know it's kind of nice to pay for the tour ahead of time and not have to think about how much this meal was costing. I wore a black beaded dress that is one of my favorites and Russ wore his tuxedo and top hat. One lady make the comment that he looked like the man on the Monopoly Board. I'd never thought of it but he does sort of and very handsome at that.

The next morning we all took off in various directions to our homes, looking forward to gathering together next year.

Submitted by Russ & Jane Armstrong;

## June 10<sup>th</sup> – A Day for the Residents of the *Manor at Canyon Lakes to Remember*

Six of our cars found their way to the *Manor at Canyon Lakes*, and their occupants enjoyed a couple hours of simple, casual visiting with the residents. The Shreves arrived in their 1925 Hupmobile, Eldon brought his '53 Chrysler, and Jack Yale came in his 1932 Packard. Jim and Ginger brought their '51 Cadillac, Don Myers brought his '57 Thunderbird, and my '24 Dodge Brothers Screenside tricked me into coming late. We arrived at the manor just in time to enjoy hot dogs, sauerkraut, and cold beer. Yes, cold beer. Well, some of us had cold beer – the Atkins diet doesn't look too kindly on those little amenities like cold beer. Anyway, I enjoyed two hot dogs, without buns, washed down with a Diet Coke.

I took the *DB Screenside*, and was thoroughly entertained by three folks who got all excited because "their father, uncle, or other, had one of those", or they "drove one of those things themselves, back when they were younger". One woman said her father used a screenside "just like this one" in his *agro* business. She used to ride in the back. After begging for a ride, we made a short loop around the block – that sure brought out the grins! I thoroughly enjoy sharing the sights and sounds of the old machines with these folks, who always want to sit in the car, hear it start and run, or just 'be there' for the experience.



## *Now Tell Me This Doesn't Bring Back Some Old Memories*

This young fellow told me his father used to have a machine like this for his farm supply business – and he used to drive it himself!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

July	4	Bud Williams	Pasco 4th of July Parade
July	15	Mystery Night Party	Ben Franklin Parade/ picnic
August		Bob McClary	Le May Car Show in Tacoma
August	27	Fred Frasier	Fort Walla Walla Museum Ice Cream Social
	28		Prosser States Day Parade
September	5	Cyndy Underwood	Toppenish Train ride: mural tour: Yakima Indian museum and other activities.
	17	Roy Holmes	Senior Picnic
	22	Ed Edwards	Covered bridges in Oregon
October		Dennis & Karla Jackson	Christmas Party
November		Lee & Loretta Jackson	
December		Fred/John	

Editor's note. For those of you who have articles to be placed in the newsletter, can you please get them to me either by e-mail (quilterathart@aol.com), or by phone (509-946-4414) or mail (214 Abert Ave., Richland, WA 99352) by the 20th of each month. This way I can get the newsletter out in a timely manner. Thanks, Cyndy Underwood

## JULY BIRTHDAYS



2 Kay Young  
7 Ken Shreve

## JULY ANNIVERSARIES



5 Lee & Loretta Jackson  
21 Paul & Ludmila Kramer

## MYSTERY PARTY NIGHT

Come one come all to Roy's Western Smorgy on Friday, July 15, 2005. This mystery party will be from 5:30 to 8:30. Come and see what surprizes we have in store for you. You may or may not be the lucky one. For those of you who do not know where Roy's is it is located on Columbia Center Blvd north of Highway 240. Hope to see all you there.

## Pasco 4th of July Parade

The Pasco 4th of July parade is just around the corner. If you are planning to participate in this parade you will need to be there by 8:30. The meeting place is on 4th Ave. by the court house and volunteer park. If you need any further information on the Pasco parade please contact Bud Williams at 547-6916.