



# Gas Gauge



April 2009

## Monthly newsletter of Ye Olde Car Club



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## St Paddy's Day Cruise



This car was an award winner in the Show and Shine in Heppner Ore. To find out whose car it is see the last page. It wasn't the only winner, Ed Edwards also won an award with his Mustang. Ask him how tough the competition was.

Of course there were other cars there. Jack brought his 40 Merc, Jim & Ginger Vetrano drove his Stuebaker, Roy & Sharon Holmes were in his Monte



Carlo, and Dave stands drove Jack's Auburn Boat tail. He is

dressed like the Red Baron, Maybe he plans on flying low on the way home. I rode with Jack and we left early so we saw a little of the parade but did not stay for the entertainment or food which, I



understand from Roy and Martha was very good. Martha brought with her a new-old member Judy Todd. We had a total of seven cars and about 20 people on this trip. In addition to the ones mentioned there was Fred & Mary Fraser in his Mercedes, Pete and Grace Jackson, Duane & Bev Rabe, and John Nelson. We had a little excitement in the parking lot, Jack opened his car door to let Duke (his dog) out for a pee call and he wasn't there. Jack freaked out! Word spread then Jim Vetrano screamed "There he is." Jim may not hear well but he has the eyesight of an eagle. Duke was waiting at the door when Jack opened it and was gone in a flash so fast Jack didn't see or hear him. So much for Jack's sight and hearing. all in all a good trip except for the cold.

We also got this "Thank You" card from the Neurological Resource Ctr for helping them by bringing our cars to their event.

Thank you for your support of  
The Neurological Resource Center and  
Variété 2009!

The event was a great success and fun was had by all. We met our goal of raising \$50,000! We hope to see you at Variété 2010 on March 5th.

Gentlemen -  
Thank you so much for sharing your beautiful cars with us for Variété. It really added to the mood and fun of the event.

*Down Home*

## Guess Who These people are.



To help you identify this couple I can give you a couple hints.

First: They live in Kennewick

Second: This pic was taken 67 years ago.

Third: His classic vehicle is baby blue.

Fourth: His Good friend's first name makes you think of beer.

Answer on the last page

## Prez sez

The first cruise of the year to Heppner for St Paddys day was a great success, but we are still waiting for warm weather. It won't be long and we will be complaining about how hot it is. Guess I will just take it one day at a time.

We are planning a lot of parades, activities, and tours for the coming months so be sure to read the Gas Gauge so you won't miss any thing.

Thanks to those of you who have stepped up to help by planning tours and vounteering for other jobs.

See you at a future event. We have some jackets available and are still working on name tags. Contact Martha @ 582-7530 for more info.

## What is and will be happening

Here's the info on the April tour from Fred Fraser. We'll meet at the Pasco Red Lion parking lot at 9 a.m. on Sat. April 18. This is the motel directly across the street from CBC on 20th. The planned route will be across the Snake River bridge on hiway 12, then left turn on 124 through Burbank. Continue on 124 to N. Touchet Road, turn right and follow the road to Touchet. We'll turn left onto hiway 12 at Touchet and continue on to Walla Walla. We'll be viewing a small car collection at Bill Bett's place. There is a planed tour of a professional pottery shop/salesroom. Men are welcome to come also! There is a collection of old gas pumps and globes. Women are welcome to come too. We'll eat lunch on downtown Walla Walla Main St. at a fun restaurant named Marchants. The owner also likes old cars! I need RSVP's by April 14 so we can inform the restaurant and pottery tour of the number coming so they know how many will be there. Yes, I know it's tax time but am sure you all will be done and can let me know that you are ready for a springtime tour!

Call me at 946-9850 and let me know or talk to our answering machine. Don't forget the swap meet on May 2nd.

## GRAND CIRCLE TOURS by Jim Vetrano

One of the highlights of the tour year for Ye Olde Car Club during the 60's and 70,s was a Grand Circle Tour. The tours always took place in June shortly after school let out for the summer. The timing was to accommodate families with kids (and a lot of kids went on the tours) and two families who had members working for the school district.

A typical agenda for a Grand Circle Tour was to gather (usually at Cork's house) on a Saturday morning. From there we would set out for a (nominally) 1000 mile, 9 day tour. Each tour followed a preplanned route and Cork would organize the tour each year. There were plenty of rest stops along the way and often stops for road side repairs. At each stop the kids would run off restlessness and then regroup in the

various cars for the next lap. Typically the younger kids would fight for a spot in Cork's screen side, which normally had a chalk board on its side which changed its message daily, but often sported "Alaska or Bust". This was to impress the people who passed us.

Every year was a new adventure and went over a new route.

Unfortunately, written chronicles of those adventures are nearly non-existent and exist only in the fading memories of the tour participants. The one documented tour was the 1967 tour to Wenatchee, Kelona, and Grand Coulee Dam. That was written up in a 1967 article in The Restorer and is available. Some of the tours and their destinations are listed below:

I ??

II 1967 Wenatchee-Kelona-Grand Coulee Dam

III 1968 White Pass-Pacific Ocean-Portland

IV 1969 Stevens Pass-Victoria-Chinook Pass

V 1970 Davenport-Ainsworth Hot Springs-Coeur D'Alene

VI ??

VII ??

VIII 1974 Boise-Sun Valley-Missoula

I hesitate to list the people on the tours since I might miss some, but there were usually 5-10 families. Cars ranged in age from the teens to the 30's with a 1935 Plymouth being the newest. Makes included Ford, Overland, Dodge, Cadillac, Pierce Arrow, Chevrolet, and Plymouth.

## Thoughts to Ponder

I have kleptomania, but when it gets bad, I take something for it. *This one you have to think about*

**Suicidal twin kills sister by mistake! Do you get it?**

## April Birthdays

2nd	Janice Wellington	19th	Donna Shreve
4th	Denny Kehl	23rd	Delores McClary
4th	Sharron Holmes	25th	Jim Lauby
7th	Maryanne Lauby	28th	Kaye Henson
15th	Delora Boob	29th	Paula Stands
19th	Dennis Jackson	29th	Denny Wellington

## Anniversaries

5th	Pete and Grace Jackson
19th	Dennis and Karla Jackson

## Mystery Celebrities



This lovely couple is Wayne and Lorraine Williams. They are celebrated their 67th wedding anniversary March 29th.



This little fellow, as you probably already guessed, is the owner of the car that was awarded the Leprechan Award  
Phil Prather

April 2009



### 1912 Bessemer Truck

The screen-side delivery truck was a popular style of the teens and the early 1920s. Many commercial vehicle manufacturers (both small and large production companies) offered similar models in those days.

Some older readers may associate such a screen-side truck with a "dog-catcher's truck," for back in the old days, stray or unlicensed animals were frequently carted off to the pound in trucks that looked like this.

Bessemer trucks are rare. Most of them used Continental engines, as did many other small independent truck and auto manufacturers. Early Bessemers had chain drive to the rear wheels, but in 1916 a one-ton model with internal gear drive joined the Bessemer line, along with two, three and a half, and five-ton worm drive trucks.

The jerky-motion cone clutch gave way to a more modern dry-plate disc clutch, and in 1918 the remaining chain-drive Bessemers were discontinued.

A 1923 merger with American Motors Corp. of Plainfield, NJ. moved operations from Pennsylvania to Plainfield. And, soon a sixteen-passenger bus was added to the line.

Taking a cue from Reo's popular "Speed Wagon" series, Bessemer American Corp. introduced its own one-ton "speed truck" with six-cylinder Continental engine, shortly before operations ceased in 1926.

Not many extras were available for this Spartan-looking 1912 model, which didn't even have side doors or windows. However, each Bessemer truck of this type came equipped with "three lamps, a horn, and tools."

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