

GAS GAUGE

February 2013

Monthly Newsletter of Ye Olde Car Club

PLEEZ PAZZ ZAH *PIZZA*



ROUNDTABLE was filled to the max at Ye Olde Car Club's annual pizza feed held January 24 in Richland. There were 41 hungry people, a grand social affair, and it was great to see club members who don't attend the Wednesday breakfast meetings. Phil Prather holds the meager leftovers.

A Peek at the Past



Martha Shreve discovered these mementos from Ye Olde Car Club's past when brothers Dwight and Dave Underwood participated in Washington's Centennial tour in 1989. They drove their 1941 Cadillac 4-door convertible sedan on the trip, which was called "The Great Trail Drive of the Century." It was a two-week tour with stops at Olympia, Fort Vancouver, Fort Spokane, Fort Colville, Fort Steele, B.C., and Fort Walla Walla, which is where this picture was taken.

Fender Chatter

*By John Trumbo
Gas Gauge editor*

Half a century behind us, that's how long Ye Olde Car Club has been around the Tri-Cities.

It was fortuitous timing when honorary member Martha Shreve found the pictures of the Underwood brothers taken in 1989 at the state centennial tour at Fort Walla Walla. Those were the days. See the article on page 2.

There were lots of multi-day tours way back when, too. Pete Jackson recalls them as Circle Tours because the trips would make a big loop, coming and going on different roads.

One such trip was in the summer of 1967 when Kennewick pharmacist Corky Simmelink and his old car buddies packed their antique autos, wives and children and hit the road for a 760-mile journey north to British Columbia. The drivers were younger then, and the cars were older, too.

The six cars included Corky and Audrey Simmelink's 1920 Dodge screenside truck, Jim and Ginger Vetrano's 1931 Ford cabriolet, Bob and Petty Graves' 1916 Dodge touring, Gil and Odetta Linden in their 1918 Dodge touring, Dave and Pat Ashby's 1928 Pontiac coupe and Dale and Kay Henson's 1927 Model T touring.

Road trips back then were the club's main events each summer, said Martha Shreve, whose husband Vernal was often leading the way with their Auburn sedan or one of their Hupmobiles.

Much has changed in the past five decades. Drivers are getting older and the cars seem to be getting younger. But one thing is the same. Ye Olde Car Club members still love their cars and love to show and drive them.

OK ladies and gentlemen, start your engines, the road ahead beckons for our 50th anniversary this summer..

POSTSCRIPT: Please contact me at yocc@owt.com if you want to receive the Gas Gauge by email, or if you want to suggest a topic or idea for an article. You also should feel free to let me know if there are any mistakes so I can make a correction.

Way Back When

(Taken from the Feb. 19, 1950 edition of the Tri-City Herald. We pick up the story in 1924. Thanks to Martha Shreve for providing this historical information about Kennewick's early days)

By Mrs. R.E. Reed **A bridge over our river**

There was some talk of a free bridge across the Columbia in early 1924.

Mr. Neuman opened a department store and bought out the Home Grocery.

Oil was found at Attalia.

Mr. and Mrs. B. B. Plowman purchased the Palm Cafe (now the Arrow Grill.)

Work was started on the Kennewick-Plymouth Road.

In 1925, H. .E. Oliver bought the Standard Station he now operates on Kennewick Avenue at Benton.

The Grange put on a rolling grocery with George Stradford as driver.

Streets were renamed in preparation for city mail delivery.

Due to the warm spring asparagus was cut as early as February.

The county commissioners considered paving the road between Kennewick and Richland.

As 1927 began, the city bought the Beach Block (built in 1906) to be used as a library, city hall and police station. The upper floor was leased to the Masonic Order.

J. G. Kelly of Walla Walla bought the controlling interest in the Church Grape Juice plant.

This year the community held the local fair in the store windows.

On July 1, city delivery of mail started.

We shipped 29 cars of asparagus.

In 1928 the first district conference of the Washington Federation of Business and Professional Womens clubs was held here, Feb. 18-19.

In March the Isaac Walton League was organized.

The Kiwanis Club sponsored a public playground during the vacation months with Harriet Hudnall as director.

The fair grounds were used for the first time with temporary buildings for displays. The organization cleared \$800 to be used for new buildings.

We shipped 50 cars of peaches. Mr. A. T. Belair of Prosser purchased the local bakery from Mr. Chas. Haas .

(To be continued)

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

10th Evelyn Welker
14th Jim Vetrano
19th Grace Jackson
28th Theora Williams

Anniversaries

10th Willie & Rachel Gould
14th Jim & Ginger Vetrano
14th Manual & Rinda Martinez
19th Myrtle Nesbitt

Nuts & Bolts

When necessary to reuse an old cork or paper gasket on an engine, try applying heavy grease, such as Ford water pump grease, on both sides of the cork/paper. The grease will help "set" the old gasket firmly and give more pliability to the material as it is recompressed.

When Old Cars Were New

Old car trivia, courtesy of John Nelson

In January 1896 there were exactly four gasoline buggies in the United States. One was built by Duryea Brothers in 1892; one was built by Henry Ford in 1894. Another was built by Haynes in 1894; and one was built by Benz of Germany in 1895. In America's first auto race, held Thanksgiving day 1895 from Chicago to Evanston and return (about 50 miles), these four cars averaged five miles per hour.

Have a shop tip to share? Share the wealth by sending it to the editor by email to YOCC@gmail.com. Thanks



Prez sez

***By Dave Hannah
President***

First, a thanks to everyone for attending the Round Table pizza party on January 24. We had 41 people attending. It was great to visit with members that don't always come to our weekly breakfast meetings. I had a discussion with Bob Rupp and he suggested an apple blossom trip in June. We will make that happen.

The swap meet group is working on the advertising initiative for promoting the swap meet on May 4. Local car clubs and all the people who attended last year have been notified. Remember to reserve May 2-4 as days to help set up and run the swap meet. We have five people signed up for the swap meet as of the end of January. I am working with John Donley, office manager of Benton County, to renew the three year contract for the fairgrounds and to get approval for the vendors for this year's swap meet.

Don't forget the women's luncheon on Feb. 14 at 1 p.m. at the Richland Red Lion. RSVP Jane Armstrong at 627-2954 prior to Feb. 12.

Ron Smith has been working hard on the June 8 car show with the visiting Nevada car club traveling through our area. The show will be from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. in Columbia Park by the fishing pond area. This car show has been suggested to coincide with our club's 50th anniversary.

If you haven't been to the club's web site, there have been several major updates. We now have our mailing address, membership application and new email address, which is yocclub@gmail.com.

Don't forget that dues for 2013 are due now and delinquent as of March 1. Failure to meet the deadline will cancel your membership and suspend receiving the Gas Gauge newsletter until the dues are paid. So don't delay, pay!!

See you at the Vetrano's Chocolate Extravaganza Feb. 15. The affair marks Jim's birthday and Jim & Ginger's 60th anniversary. Bring something chocolate.

Honorary Lifetime Members

Hear ye, Hear ye! A tip of the hat to **Wayne & Lorraine Williams**, and to **Ray & Delores Benson**, who have earned the right, by club membership vote, to be honorary members in Ye Olde Car Club.

February/March Activities

Ye Olde Car Club Ladies Luncheon will be 1 p.m. **Feb. 14** at the Richland Red Lion Inn. RSVP by Feb. 12 to Jane Armstrong at 627-2954.

Chocolate Extravaganza, **Feb. 15**, at Jim & Ginger Vetrano's home on Yellowstone Ave., Kennewick. Bring something chocolate to share. Pssst -- The Vetranos' 60th anniversary and Jim's birthday are Feb. 14.

St. Paddy's Day 31st Annual Cruz-In at Heppner is **March 16** this year. YOCC members who want to attend will drive on their own. Events begin early with a breakfast at the community hall, car show registration at 9 a.m. and the Great Green Parade to follow. Cost is \$20 to register at the show, or \$5 less for early birds. Plaques for winners. Details at www.heppnerchamber.com.

Sunnyside High School has its annual show & shine set **March 23**, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 1801 E. Edison Street, Sunnyside. \$10 to show. Proceeds will help support the 2013 senior class graduation party.

Ye Old Car Club Brass

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In the rearview mirror...



Why is ??? forking tumbleweeds out of the river?



Our **Guess Who ???** this month is a farm boy from the hamlet of Mica where the biggest employer was a brickyard. ??? first learned to drive with a 1923 Dodge home-built rig made up of Chevy parts and a pair of transmissions married back to back. His first car was a 1936 Ford cabriolet, which he confesses to having ruined by welding on a top from a '36 Ford coupe. Why? Because he couldn't afford to have the cabriolet top recovered.! Our ??? likes to pretend to be Mr. Billy Goat Gruff, but we all know him and his

bride as genuinely nice folk and long-time members of YOCC. He's a one-woman man, but ??? has lost count of the number of steering wheels he's wrapped his arms around. While a 1957 Cadillac 4-door hardtop was a favorite ride, their low mileage all original '55 Olds hardtop is the couple's current cruiser. Our ??? for February is the smiling gent pictured above in his high school monkey suit. Say hello to Bob and Delores McClary, forever high school sweethearts.

Want to suggest for Rearview mirror? Call editor ASAP.
Or send it in anonymously to yocc@owt.com.