

THE GAS GAUGE



MEMBERSHIP MONTHLY BY YE OLDE CAR CLUB OF THE TRI-CITIES WASH.
PO BOX 467, RICHLAND, WASHINGTON 99352

March 1970

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next regular meeting will be at the Pasco Elks on Wednesday, March 11th, at 8:00 p.m.

There was a real fine turnout for the St. Valentine's Day party. It was good to see all our friends from Walla Walla joining us on that festive occasion. Everybody has had such a fine time at this February event for the past few years that it looks like it could become a tradition. By the way--someone had such a good time that they went home without their brown and white "Fire-King" casserole and have not even missed it. See Bob Henrich.

Preliminary plans are shaping up for the "freezeout" tour this spring. The Walla Walla group will be taking the lead. Tentatively, it is set for early April.

Wayne Weihermiller is still working on our Information Center. Right now he is concentrating on making an index of suppliers of strange and unusual parts and services, and he needs your help. He wants to list reliable specialists for such things as porcelainizing, poured bearings, sand blasting, piston makers, gasket makers, foundry work, old stock parts, etc.--more of the unusual rather than the garden variety. We would be glad to hear from any of you exchange readers out there throughout the Northwest who supply any of these services or who can give Wayne some information. Write to Wayne Weihermiller, 1686B Jaadwin, Richland, Washington, 99352, with information or requests for information.

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Those of you who attended the Valentine Party heard the announcement concerning the proposed antique car show at the Columbia Center Mall slated for the first weekend in May. The Center is very anxious to sponsor an antique car show to promote traffic and business. It is the feeling of your President and Executive Board that our Club should receive a reasonable dollar donation for such participation. This is especially true when the event is used to promote business and sales.

In talking with Jim Carpenter, Promotion Manager of Columbia Center, I find that he is not willing to make a one dollar donation to our club. His feeling is that the Center would be doing us a great favor by providing free space and advertising for "our show". Thousands of people would be on hand to see our cars. Nowhere else in Eastern Washington and Oregon is such an opportunity for public exposure available to clubs such as ours.

Needless to say, my reaction to a free show was --- Sorry, we are not interested at this time.

R. Henrich

(Editor's note: A late communication from Tacoma indicates they will receive \$450 plus armed guard protection for a similar show.)

FEATURE ARTICLE

"How Secure Is Your Antique?" by Bob Henrich

Storage of antique cars and parts is a problem for many of us. If it isn't causing the rafters in the attic to sag a little bit, the goodies are probably using some valuable space in the garage. If there is no more room on the garage walls and ceiling from which to suspend the future use items, they are probably stored outside on the back corner of the lot. That pile of junk is an eyesore to the next door neighbor, but a parts supply house to the antique car buff. I have often thought it would be nice to buy a little land out in the country and build a storage shed. The following bulletin from the Klickitat County Sheriff's Office certainly discourages any ideas of that kind and makes me more security conscious about our property. I quote from a December 15, 1969, bulletin:

"The office received a complaint at about 3:30 p.m. on December 13, 1969, from Mr. Lasley of Bickelton that someone had stolen a 1916 Ford Automobile from his place. He requested an officer come by, as he had information on it. As the officers were on a Rustling Detail at the time, Mr. Lasley was advised they would contact him in the a.m.

At 11:35 a.m. on December 14, 1969, officers met with Mr. Lasley at his residence. Mr. Lasley took the officers to his other farm located on Naught Road about 1/2 mile south of Bickelton Road. There a small, older building was pointed out as being where the car was kept. Photo #1 shows how the building was secured and the broken lock and chain on the door. After the car was taken, the door and chain were reclosed and left in the position shown in the photo. A set of car tracks in the muddy ground showing that a vehicle towing a two wheel trailer had backed up to the garage. Further tracks in the dust inside the garage, shown in Photos #2 and #3, indicate two people pushed the car out onto the trailer. On leaving, tire prints show that the right wheel on the trailer was flat and the towing vehicle had become stuck and had a hard time going out. The only readable print is shown in Photo #4 and is presumed to be on the left wheel of the trailer.

Mr. Lasley gave the following account. About 9:30 a.m., he and his son had observed a 1955-56 Chevrolet P.U., short box, gunmetal grey in color, towing a two-wheel flat bed trailer with clear wood racks of about 12-18 inches go by their place headed west on Bickelton Road. On the trailer, they observed an older model car partially covered with a canvas. As the Lasleys had company at the time, they didn't get around to checking on it until 3:00 p.m. Prior to the theft, Lasley remembers seeing the trailer come from the east and sometime later return from the west. Both times the trailer was empty.

The following information was taken from the title of Mr. Lasley's possession:

1939 Title and Registration
Motor #1276861
1916 Ford Touring Car
1938 License #21905
R.O. & L.O.: J. W. Weer, Mabton, Washington

The car is in original condition except for a starter which is located at the bottom of the driver's seat. The car had been parked in the same location since 1939.

The marks left by the flat tire on the trailer were followed west toward Goldendale. At the bottom of Rock Creek Grade, the worn out tire was found and is now in custody. The rim marks were followed on to where the Bickelton Road ends at U. S.97. Here the marks were lost.

At 9:05 a.m., December 15, 1969, this officer checked with the O. K. Tire Shop and was advised by Danny Wedgewood, Manager, that just before noon on December 13, 1969, he had sold a fellow a Ford 15" wheel and a used tire that the buyer stated was for a trailer. Wedgewood remembers the vehicle as being an older Chevrolet or GMC, in the 50's, painted grey in color. However, no trailer was attached. The purchaser was all muddy and was asked by Wedgewood if he had been stuck. Subject answered yes. Description is white, male, American, 20-30 years, long black hair, needed a shave, 5'7", 150 lb., average build.

At 9:25 a.m., the attendant at the American Station was interviewed. He supplied the information that just before the truck went to the O. K. Shop, it had pulled up to a gas pump nearest his office and was headed in a northerly direction. Two WMA were in the pickup, one matching the description given at the O. K. Tire Shop and the other being of the same general description, except a little taller. He also noticed the subjects had headed north as if going to Yakima. No license number was noted at either place." (End of bulletin.)

About four years ago, my wife and I drove to Bickelton one Sunday with the intent of looking up Mr. Lasley and his Ford. I was told by a resident of Bickelton that Mr. Lasley would not admit to owning such a car, let alone showing it to a stranger. The man that I talked to was a "not too distant" neighbor, and he had seen the car once several years ago. Apparently some stranger other than Bob Henrich knew about the car and exactly where it was located. I, for one, hope Mr. Lasley has recovered his possession, but the prospects appear to be dim.

A word of warning and caution to owners to antique parts and cars: A stranger's interest in antique cars and parts may be the prelude to something missing from your supply house.

CLASSIFIED

- FOR SALE: 1935 Dodge Hearse, fair body, some modifications. Car is garaged in Spokane, but for information see Jean Turping, 1929 Davidson, Richland, Washington, 943-9804. About \$500.
- FOR SALE: 1934 Dodge pickup. Good condition. Write to Ron Van Cleve, 2112 Road 48, Pasco, Washington.
- WANTED: A pair of lenses for side lamps. Model T 1915-22. Bob Henrich, 401 Basswood, Richland, Washington, 948-2507.

