

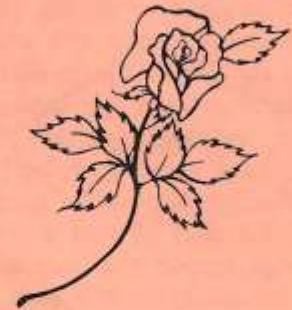
# The Gas Gauge

JUNE 1990

PUBLISHED BY YE OLDE CAR CLUB, INC. OF TRI-CITIES, WA  
P.O. BOX 6873 KENNEWICK, WA 99336-0601

## *Tribute to a Friend . . . . .*

*On May 19, we were all saddened and shocked to learn of the passing of Dale Westermeyer. Our heartfelt sympathy and condolences go to Nancy and her family. Dale was a great asset as a friend and club member. He will be sorely missed and never forgotten.*



## **JUNE 23 PROSSER TOUR**

### **Hosted by Mike & Delora Boob**

Leave Jennifer's Bread & Bakery at 10:00 a.m., located at 701 G.W. Way (on the Parkway side) Richland.

We will take the back roads through Benton City to Prosser, then tour the WSU Experimental Farm and then on to Mike and Delora's house in Prosser for a pot luck dinner.

Coffee will be furnished by the club.

**Call Florence Haner, 547-4340 or Annie Haner, 547-2011** and let them know if you can attend and what you will bring. Florence will let them know how many to expect.

## **EDITOR'S NOTES**

I stopped to see Russ Duffield a week ago and he was doing great, almost back to speed as the world class grouch he has always been . . . ha!

Jim Gilbert sold his Dodge at the Swap Meet, and its new home in in Anacortes.

See next page for an article written by Jim Gilbert 8 or 9 years ago. Dixie says they added the rumble seat, but other than that the car has stayed the same.

## **FREE! FREE! FREE!**

Sawdust for your shop spills, antifreeze, oil etc. Bring your own containers and go to  
Columbia Industries  
900 S. Dayton, Kennewick



## **Gary's Corner**

Thank you everyone who helped make the Swap Meet a success. We sold 206 stalls. For all those who helped but didn't get on the sign-up sheet, please contact Gary at 586-9676 to receive a T-Shirt. T-shirts will replace the Swap Meet dinner.

**The trophy winners for the car show are:**

**1st: Jim Stafford, Diamond T**

**2nd Jack Yale, Auburn**

**3rd Clyde Buckwalter, Hupmobile**

*Roses are red, Ye Olde Car Club is blue,  
What we need is a glimpse of you,  
Dressed in your best or in dungarees,  
Who cares if it's high fashion or BVD'ees.*

*We meet only once a month  
And sometimes for a tour.  
More often is too much,  
And less might cause a roar.*

*We want to hear about your latest good  
buys.  
Brag a little, don't be shy.  
Just tell us facts, please, no lies.*

*Tell us all, both good and bad,  
Maybe even something that made you  
mad.*

*What you did from last year to date,  
What you'll do to make our Car Club great.  
We miss your input, and your output, too,  
But most of all, WE MISS YOU!!!*

Thank you, Florence for writing this great poem and jogging all of us into caring a little more about the Club and the great people in it.

## IN THE BEGINNING . . .

by Jim Gilbert

It was the spring of 1962. My father had been looking for an antique car for some time and had chased down the usual gamut of leads, including a 1916 Dodge roadster minus the transmission, and the inevitable model A's whose owners were going to fix them up "some day" (while they disintegrated into the ground). Then there was (and still is) the priceless Reo Flying Cloud in a garage near my grandmother's house in Lewiston, but that's another story.

One evening, a fairly sharp-looking black 1955 Ford pulled up in front of our house in Orofino, Idaho; a young man came to the door and told us that he had heard we were looking for an old car. He said he had a good 1930 model "A" coupe for sale for \$200 at his place outside of Weippe. It was agreed that we would go to look at the car the next evening.

I could hardly wait for school to be over the next day. My brother had a test to study for and couldn't go, so after dinner, my father, his employee, Lyle, and I jumped in our station wagon and headed for Weippe. My father wasn't much of a mechanic, so Lyle was our automotive advisor and subsequently contributed a great deal to our restoration efforts. Our destination was a couple of miles out of greater metropolitan Weippe on a gravel road, and turned out to be an old farmhouse kind of like the ones in the Ma and Pa Kettle movies — not too well maintained either. It had been raining and was approaching dusk, lending a somber mood to the scene.

Sitting in the yard was the model "A". Paint, what there was of it, was kind of olive drab; a tin roof had been installed with about 80 sheet metal screws, and the interior looked like a three-hundred pound rat had been living in it. The right rear fender canted up at an odd angle, aftermarket sealed-beam headlights had been installed, and it had the wrong wheels (21" in front and about 16" in back). The dashboard sported an assortment of extra holes and switches; in short it was a very "used" model "A". However, the engine started easily and sounded reasonably healthy and it was established that we could have our pick of parts from two spare bodies in Kamiah. After some dickering, a price of \$175 was agreed upon and we had a model "A"!

"How are the brakes?"

"Oh, I never had any trouble getting it stopped."

"Does the transmission slip out of gear?"

"No."

Fortunately, his second answer was correct. On the way home we had to negotiate the Greer Grade (downhill), which, to those of you unfamiliar with that neck of the woods, is similar to the old Lewiston hill, only narrower, steeper, and with 15 mph hairpins in a couple of places. It's also a good approximation of Wolf Creek Pass in C. W. McCall's song. Rattling along at about 40 mph, all was uneventful until we approached the first sharp turn on the grade. Happily dad was prudent enough to have reduced his speed well in advance, because downhill braking action turned out to be negligible. A quick double-clutch to second got us around the turn and we didn't shift back up until the bottom.

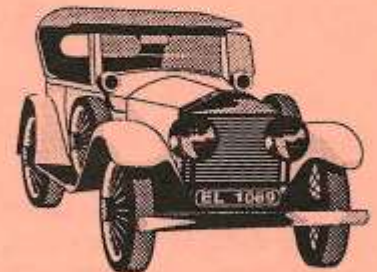
We arrived home without further problem and placed the new treasure in our lighted garage where it looked even worse than before (with a mattress on the top, it could have been used in the "Grapes of Wrath"). I don't remember my mother saying anything negative about the car, then or ever (I guess that comes from being married 16 years).

Unfortunately, my father passed away in 1963, but my mother and Lyle persevered and in 1964 the car was finished, sporting black lacquer paint, red wheels and a very presentable, but not too authentic naugahyde interior (seems like lots of mid-60's restorations were done that way).

Being jointly owned by me and my brother Jack, the model "A" was my first car; it brings back many fond memories, and was directly responsible for my chronic illness known as *Old Car Collecting*. In the spring of 1975 I bought my brother's share, liberated the car from 6 years of storage, and brought it to Richland. A number of old cars have passed through my hands since then, but the model "A" remains, looking just like it did in my high school days, right down to the Wards tires. It did, however, receive major engine and driveline work in 1975 and will be getting a rumble seat this spring.

I can't ever remember being stranded by the "A", and I've driven it a lot, including a tour to Victoria in 1976.

- June 16-17 MOSES LAKE, 10th ANNUAL BASIN HORSELESS CARRIAGE CLUB CAR SHOW & RALLY; Lyle Vanderelden, Rt 2 Box 142, Moses Lake, WA 98837; 509-765-6200
- June 17 ENUMCLAW, WASHINGTON ALL GM PICNIC King County Fairgrounds; by Mt. Rainier Reg. VCCA; Phil Thomas, 5114 N 45th, Tacoma, WA 98407; 206-752-5371
- June 17 SALEM, 18th ANNUAL SALEM SWAP MEET, Chemeketa Community College; Admission Free; by Willamette Valley Reg. MAFCOA; Saturday p.m. Set-up; Steve Clark, 4365 Cordon Rd. N.E., Salem, OR 97305; 503-581-0384
- June 23-24 SALEM, EARLY DAY GAS ENGINE & TRACTOR CLUB SWAP MEET; Antique Powerland (I-5 Exit 263 north of Salem); Admission Free; by Early Day Gas Engine & Tractor Club; Les Layton, 729 Marino Dr. N., Salem, OR 97303; 503-~~393-9789~~  
390-0105
- June 23-24 PENDLETON SWAP MEET, Pendleton Armory, ad. \$2.00, Info: Red Maclean, PO Box 370, Pilot Rock, OR 97868; 503-443-3546
- June 24 VICTORIA, 17th ANNUAL VICTORIA SWAP MEET G. R. Pearkes Arena; by Victoria Chapter VCCC; 6:30 a.m. Set-up; Finn Eriksen, 1310 Richardson St., Victoria, B.C. Canada V8S 1P5; 604-382-3467
- July 7-8 SPOKANE, 20th ANNUAL SPOKANE SWAP MEET Spokane Fairgrounds; by Inland Empire Reg. Early Ford V-8 Club; Friday p.m. Set-up; Spokane Swap Meet, P.O. Box 176, Veradale, WA 99037; 509-535-1766
- July 14 VANCOUVER, 15th ANNUAL VANCOUVER USA SWAP MEET Clark County Fairgrounds; by Evergreen Old Car Club & Oregon Trail A Club; Friday p.m. Set-up; Inside Pre-registration Needed Only; Vancouver Swap Meet, P.O. Box 2101, Vancouver, WA 98666; 206-574-4882
- July 15 FOREST GROVE, 18th ANNUAL FOREST GROVE ROTARY CONCOURS; Pacific University Campus; Pre-registration required; by Forest Grove Rotary Club; A. C. Stephens, P.O. Box 125, Forest Grove, OR 97116; 503-357-6144 or 503-357-8717
- July 27-29 LEAVENWORTH, 4th ANNUAL ALPINE ANTIQUE AUTO DAYS Cascade High Campus; by Wenatchee Valley Antique Auto Club; Pre-registration Required; Ken Komro, 7135 Olala Canyon, Cashmere, WA 98815; 509-782-4973
- July 28-29 SALEM, GREAT OREGON STEAM-UP; Antique Powerland (I-5 Exit 263 north of Salem); Ad. \$3.00; by Early Day Gas Engin & Tractor Club; 3995 Brooklake Rd. NE, Brooks, OR 97303; 503-362-7946 (ALSO AUG 4-5)





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**Florence Haner  
P O Box 1023  
Pasco, WA 99301**

**FIRST CLASS  
DATED MATERIAL**