



Gas Gauge Ye Olde Car Club March 2021 Newsletter

A Note From The Pres

YOCC EVENTS

THE YOCC Does your heater work? CRUISE

Did you participate in John Hopkins' "Does your heater work? cruise" aka the cruise to Popeye's in Sunnyside? 20 YOCC members did with 14 cars, plus 3 from the Mopar Club. Dave Hannah led the way and a good time was had by all. We really didn't need heaters, bright sun was with us all day.

John is working on future events, including discussion about whether to have evening meetings. When Frances and I were members of Vintage Chevrolet Club of America, we had monthly Tuesday evening business meetings at 7:00 plus a weekly Saturday breakfast social gathering. My trade association held monthly dinner meetings and Friday breakfast gatherings. Both worked well.

TOMORROW: A FRIDAY NOON MEETING

John Hopkins says: We will be having a meeting in Howard Amon Park this Friday at 12:00. We will be at or near the fingernail stage. Follow Lee Blvd. across George Washington Way into the park. We will assemble on the North side near the parking area. Look for my red Impala. Bring your lunch or stop at one of the fast food places then bring it to the meeting.

We will discuss future meetings, cruises, and information about upcoming events. Weather is forecast to be sunny.

Beginning of the pandemic. A year ago when the pandemic began, Frances was in San Diego visiting our son. She planned to stay another week but made it out before passenger traffic was grounded.

Tuesday Update

My Tuesday Updates are a little thin lately. Do you have something to tell about your hobby vehicle? "Enquiring Minds Want to Know." Share information with other club members by sending it to me for inclusion in the Tuesday Update.

So: Who painted a car recently? Who is doing an engine transplant? Who bought, or sold, a car?

Bits and Pieces

Never iron a four-leaf clover because you don't want to press your luck.

As you slide down the banister of life, may the splinters never point in the wrong direction.

On St. Patrick's Day I pretend to be Irish, just like on Christmas when I pretend to be good.

To succeed in life, you need three things: A wishbone, A backbone, and A funny bone.

So-this Irishman walks **OUT** of a bar...no really! It can happen.

Only Irish coffee provides in a single glass all four food groups: Alcohol, Caffeine, Sugar and Fat.

May the wind at your back not be the corned beef and cabbage you had for lunch.

You can't drink all day if you don't start in the morning.

Here's to you and here's to me,
I pray that friends we'll always be,
But if by chance we disagree
The heck with you and here's to me.

The Remarkable Body

There are more life forms living on your skin than there are people on the planet.

Where in the world.

The San Francisco Cable cars are the only mobile National Monuments.

Fun Food Facts

Portobello mushrooms are not a distinct mushroom species, but just a fully mature version of the common white and brown mushroom varieties of *Agaricus bisporus*.

Prominent People born in March:

Shaquille O'Neal: March 6
William H. Macy: March 13
Bruce Willis: March 19
Dr. Seuss: March 2
Elton John: March 25
Nancy Pelosi: March 26
Albert Einstein: March 14
Ruth Bader Ginsberg: March 15
Charley Pride: March 18
Vincent Van Gogh: March 30
Ron Howard: March 1
Lady Gaga: March 28
Al Gore: March 31

Presidents Born in March

James Madison: March 16
Andrew Jackson: March 15
Grover Cleveland: March 18
John Tyler: March 29

Presidents Who Died in March

Millard Fillmore: March 8

William Howard Taft: March 8

Benjamin Harrison: March 13

Dwight D. Eisenhower: March 28

March is the first month of Spring.

March is Women's History month.

March is American Red Cross month.

It's been found !!!!! The mysterious Tommie tipper was discovered by Roger's family. During Roger Gress's funeral the family was told about the hiding of the tipper between Roger and Bob Gough. Bob or Roger would hide the tipper somewhere in each other's car until it was discovered. This took place for several years and each one would say the other one had it. But eventually it would be discovered and the hiding would begin again. Christy text messaged me with the attached photo and statement. So much fun at car shows and great memories.

Dave Hannah





Volkswagen Bus

Known as Type 2, the Microbus was an offshoot of the VW Beetle, called Type 1, which dates to 1933 when Adolf Hitler, the leader of Nazi Germany, proposed a "people's car"—or Volkswagen—for the masses. Postwar, the company was looking to expand its product line by offering a vehicle that would shake up the automotive industry. "This was the first van," White says. "Before this, people used large cars, trucks and buses to haul people and cargo around."

Regardless of its origins, the VW Microbus marks its 70th anniversary as both an icon and mode of transportation. The first vehicle went into production March 8, 1950 at a Volkswagen plant in West Germany, and changed the way the world looked at cars.

The Microbus design was created by Ben Pon, a Dutch importer of VW Beetles. He was inspired to sketch the first van in 1947 after seeing a flatbed parts-hauler made from a Type I chassis while visiting the Volkswagen plant. The German car manufacturer began tinkering with the idea and finally went into production in 1950. Two versions were initially offered: the Kombi, with side windows and removable middle and rear seats, and the Commercial, essentially the first panel van.

Volkswagen's marketing approach for the new product line was an extension of its advertising for the Beetle: promote its simple styling and usefulness as a vehicle for home, work and play. People loved the fact that the VW Microbus could transport goods of all kinds—human and otherwise. With a roomy interior, rear-wheel drive and air-cooled engine, it was easy to operate and maintain. In the United States, it was seen as a cost-effective alternative to the family station wagon.

And it was fun to customize. Almost as soon as it rolled off the assembly line, owners began adapting the Microbus to their own needs. Soon, it was being used as a camper by outdoor enthusiasts who outfitted it with beds, sinks and more. Volkswagen took note of this trend and contracted with Westfalia, a German company known for building carts and wagons, to begin making camper conversion kits. The first VW Westfalia campers were exported to the United States in 1956.

As the Microbus became more accepted in America, it began to take on a cult status with fringe groups. Its boxy appearance—so unlike anything the major auto manufacturers in Detroit were producing—became a symbol for counterculture types, who wanted to stand out from the rest of crowd. Some owners painted peace signs on the Microbus, earning it the nickname "hippie bus." "It became popular with people who were rejecting mainstream American culture," White says. "It was their way of saying, 'We don't need your big V8 cars.'"

The VW Microbus persevered through a tumultuous time in America. Millions were made, but eventually the social revolution subsided and so did interest in the vehicle. Production ceased in 2014. However, all is not lost! This counterculture symbol is about to make a comeback in 2022—as an electric vehicle. Currently known as the I.D. Buzz, the newest version of the Microbus will deliver 369 horsepower from electric motors on each axle. The original Type 2 sold in the United States in 1950 had all of 30 horsepower.

From Wikipedia

FOR SALE:

We are moving and sizing down so I have some of my shop items for sale.

1. Shop press. This press is 30 ton Carolina unit model no. CBP1200 with a 20 ton bottle jack. There is a 30 ton certification plate attached to the frame so it can be used at 30 tons. The unit is installed on a roller platform. Asking \$300 or best offer.
2. Maric1 model C112 drill press. This is a 5 speed (300-2300) 1/2 hp unit with a 3 1/2" throw and a chuck size range from a #56 bit to a 3/4" bit. The unit is on a platform with casters. The unit comes with 160 assorted drill bits, SAE/Metric tap and dies. Asking \$250 or best offer.
3. 2 ton engine hoist. This item comes with a load leveling device (1500 lbs) and numerous sizes and lengths of chains. Also included are special lifting brackets for Chevrolet, Ford, Packard and Pontiac engines along with a large sack of assorted nuts, bolts and hardware. Asking \$175 or best offer.
4. Gas welding set. Gas bottles are full. Comes with the hoses, gauges, 5 welding tips and the cutting torch. Includes tubes of 1/16" x 36', 1/8" x 36" welding rods and 1/8" flux brazing rods. Unit is on a rolling stand. Asking \$250 or best offer.
5. Metal band saw. This item is a 1/2 hp unit that is able to cut a 6"x 6" angle and other various sizes of metal. It can cut perpendicular as well as angles. has a catch pan for shavings and comes with a extra blade. It can also be used in the vertical position. Asking \$120 or best offer.
6. Transmission jack. This item has a lifting range of 5" to 18" and is on casters. Asking \$50 or best offer.
7. Valve grinding machine. Please call for details as to many items to list. Asking \$300 or best offer.

I have other additional items also so give me a call and lets talk. Mike Bughi 582-4457

Four high school boys afflicted with spring fever skipped morning classes. After lunch they reported to the teacher that they had a flat tire. Much to their relief she smiled and said, "Well, you missed a test today so take seats apart from one another and take out a piece of paper." Still smiling, she waited for them to sit down. Then she said: "First Question: Which tire was flat?"

A priest is driving back to Dublin when he gets pulled over for speeding. The policeman approaches the window and sees an empty wine bottle in the passenger's seat. The priest rolls down the window and a strong smell of wine wafts out. "Have you been drinking, Father?" asks the policeman. "Just water," replied the priest.

"I can smell wine, Father," said the policeman. The priest looks from the bottle to the heavens. "Good Lord, he's done it again!"

An English lawyer was sat with his Irish client. 'Marty' he sighed, 'Why is it that whenever you ask an Irishman a question, he replies with another question?' 'Bollocks. Who told you that?' asked Marty.

Did you hear about the Irishman who took his car for its first service? He got it stuck between the church doors!

An Englishman and an Irish man were driving head on at night on a curvy, dark road. Both are driving too fast and collide on a sharp bend in the road. To the amazement of both, they are not hurt, though their cars are destroyed. In celebration of their good luck, both agree to put aside their dislike for the other from that day forward. At this point, the Irish man goes to his trunk and fetches a 20-year-old bottle of whiskey. He hands the bottle to the Englishman who says, "May the English and the Irish live together forever in peace and harmony." The Englishman then lifts the bottle and drinks half of it down. Still shaking over the whole thing, he goes to hand the bottle to the Irish man who replies, "No, thanks. I'll just wait 'til the police get here."

LACK OF TINY PARTS DISRUPTS AUTO FACTORIES

By Jack Ewing and Don Clark, New York Times
In Tri-City Herald, January 14, 2021

Automakers braced for turmoil when the pandemic hit. They expected supply chain disruptions and plummeting sales. But they never figured that a year later one of their biggest problems would be PlayStations. Strong demand for gaming systems, personal computers and other electronics by a world stuck indoors has sucked up supplies of semiconductors, forcing carmakers around the world to scramble for the chips that have become as essential to mobility as gasoline or steel.

Virtually no carmaker has been spared. Toyota Motor has shut down production lines in China. Fiat Chrysler Automobiles temporarily stopped production at plants in Ontario and Mexico. Volkswagen has warned of production problems at factories in China, Europe and the United States. Ford Motor said last week that it was idling a Louisville, Kentucky, factory for a week because of the shortage.

When COVID-19 hit, automakers slashed orders for chips in anticipation of plunging sales. At the same time, semiconductor makers shifted their production lines to meet surging orders for chips used in products like laptop computers, webcams, tablets and 5G smartphones.

Businesses also upgraded their digital infrastructure to handle online meetings and employees working from home, while telecommunications companies invested in broadband infrastructure, further fueling demand for semiconductors. Then auto sales bounced back faster than expected at the end of 2020, catching everyone off guard. The shortages of chips that ensued are expected to last well into 2021, because it can take semiconductor makers six to nine months to realign production.

"Consumer electronics exploded," said Dan Hearsch, a managing director at the consulting firm AlixPartners. "Everybody and their brother wanted to buy an Xbox and PlayStation and laptops, while automotive shut down. Then automotive came back faster than expected, and that's where you get into this problem." While the shortage is not expected to cause auto prices to rise very much, buyers might have to wait longer to get the vehicles they want. The chip shortage has its roots in long-term forces reshaping the auto and semiconductor industries, as well as short-term confusion from the pandemic.

During the past decade, carmakers have become increasingly dependent on electronics to boost the appeal of their products, adding features such as touch screens, computerized engine controls and transmissions, built-in cellular and Wi-Fi connections, and collision avoidance systems that use cameras and other sensors. New cars can have more than 100 semiconductors, and the lack of even a single component can trigger production delays or shutdowns, industry analysts and consultants said.

Long-term pressure on chipmakers to control production costs has also played a role. Semiconductor companies that supply the auto industry, such as Infineon, NXP Semiconductors and Renesas, chose to have their most advanced chips made for them by external manufacturing services, known as foundries. But the manufacturers also maintain their own factories to make simpler auto chips, frequently fabricating them on 8-inch silicon wafers rather than the 12-inch discs used in more modern plants.

Manufacturers with plants using older 8-inch wafers weren't easily able to increase production. They hadn't invested much lately in new equipment, which is now harder to find because that technology is older, said Syed Alam, global lead for Accenture's global semiconductor consulting practice.

Geopolitics also played a role. The Trump administration in September placed restrictions on Semiconductor Manufacturing International Corp., China's main foundry, which produces chips for cars and many other applications. The company's customers began looking for alternatives, generating additional

competition for chip supplies from other foundries, said Gaurav Gupta, a vice president at the research firm Gartner.

The chip crisis is an example of how the pandemic has shaken the global economy in unpredictable ways. Carmakers expected to face supply chain shortages, and plants closed early in 2020 because of fear that workers would infect one another, or because trucking firms had stopped delivering. Most U.S. auto factories ceased production for roughly two months last spring. But suppliers and carmakers quickly found ways to contain contagion within factories and got assembly lines going again. The impact on most parts supplies was less than feared.

The semiconductor shortage came out of left field, hitting the industry at a perilous moment. Sales have plunged worldwide. In Europe, for example, they were down 25% in 2020. This is all happening while automakers are trying to navigate a shift in basic technology from internal combustion engines to batteries, which has subjected them to new competition from Tesla, the California company that has become the most valuable automaker in the world by far, and emerging Chinese manufacturers like Nio.

Exactly how long the shortage will last is unclear. It can take 20 to 25 weeks from the time new orders are placed for chips to be produced and work through the supply chain to reach cars, said Michael Hogan, a senior vice president at GlobalFoundries, a big chip manufacturer that services the auto industry and other markets.

Did you know?

It takes 570 gallons of paint to cover the White House.

Auto facts from 1950

- **More than 40 million passenger cars now travel on American roads - 40% more than a decade ago.
- **On June 25, President Truman orders U.S. troops to Korea in a "police action," which officials will call the Korean "conflict."
- **Defense work rises: Cadillac wins a contract to produce tanks; Ford inks an agreement to built Pratt and Whitney aircraft engines.
- **Fear of wartime shortages triggers a national car and truck buying frenzy.
- **Chrysler endures a 104-day worker walkout beginning January 25.
- **Briggs Cunningham's Cadillacs surprise many by coming in 10th and 11th at the LeMans road race in France.
- **A coal strike early in the year leads to eventual steel shortages.
- **About 60% of American families own a car, whose average age is 7.8 years.
- **The new Chevrolet Bel-Air is a true pillarless coupe; hardtops are also offered by Pontiac, Chrysler, Dodge, and DeSoto.
- **Chrysler's Town and Country employs disc brakes but just on the front axle.
- **Lincoln finishes ninth in the first grueling *Carrera Panamericana* (Mexican Road Race), which is won by an Oldsmobile 88.
- **In March, Nash launches the Rambler line on a 100-inch wheelbase - the first volume-built U.S. "compact" car.
- **The Rambler debuts as a unique convertible, followed in June by a two-door station wagon.
- **Hydra-Matic transmission is available on Nash Ambassador; the engine is started by lifting the gearshift lever.
- **Oldsmobile produces its final six-cylinder Series 76 models.
- **A Rocket 88 Oldsmobile shatters a class speed record at Daytona, averaging more than 100 mph.
- **The last-ever Plymouth wood-bodies station rolls off the line; an automatic choke is new for all models.
- **Oldsmobile models win 10 of 19 major stock-car races for the year.
- **Packard's "pregnant elephant" bathtub shape is in its final season.
- **Studebaker front ends display a "bullet nose," and sales soar to a record 320,884.
- **Willys Jeepsters get an F-head four-cylinder engine and a bigger six at midyear.
- **Akron-based Goodyear develops a puncture-sealing tubeless tire.
- **Nash-Kelvinator exhibits the NXI two-seater on a Fiat chassis; it will evolve into the Metropolitan minicar of 1954.

Auto facts from 1951

- **As the Korean War intensifies, production cutbacks are ordered by Washington, by way of the National Production Authority.
- **A rail strike in February temporarily cuts off supplies of critical raw materials.
- **More than three-fourths of all cars are considered "deluxe" models as postwar prosperity and public optimism continue.
- **Hardtops gain in popularity as convertibles decline.
- **The Town and Country nameplate now applies only to Chrysler's all-steel wagon.
- **Hydraglide power steering, an industry first, becomes available on Chryslers.
- **Ford-O-Matic and Merc-O-Matic transmissions are introduced.
- **Ford's Custom Victoria is the only low-priced hardtop with a V-8.
- **Hudson's hot new Hornet - which debuts with a 145-bhp, 308 cid six - begins to earn a long list of stock-car racing victories.
- **Kaiser promotes safety with a padded dash and pop-out windshield.
- **Restyled "Rocket" Oldsmobiles win an impressive 20 of 41 stock-car starts.
- **The Super 88 series joins the Oldsmobile lineup; station wagons are dropped.
- **Nash Rambler adds a Country Club hardtop coupe to the lineup but the wagon is far more popular.
- **The "bathtub" Nashes make their final appearance, adding prominent rear fenders for a "racing teardrop tail."
- **Studebaker is the first to install durable synthetic Orlon convertible tops.

Taken from 100 Years, The American Auto

WOMEN'S CORNER

WHITE LIE CAKE

Have you ever told a white lie? You are going to love this, especially all of those who bake for church events.

Alice Grayson was to bake a cake for the Baptist Church Ladies' Group in Tuscaloosa, but forgot to do it until the last minute. She remembered the morning of the bake sale & after rummaging through cabinets, found an angel food cake mix & quickly made it while drying her hair, dressing, & helping her son pack for Scout camp. When Alice took the cake from the oven, the center had dropped flat and the cake was horribly disfigured. She thought, "Oh dear, there is not time to bake another cake." This cake was important to Alice because she did so want to fit in at her new church & in her new community of friends.

So, being inventive, she looked around the house for something to build up the center of the cake. Alice found it in the bathroom - a roll of toilet paper. She plunked it in & covered it with icing. Not only did the finished product look beautiful, it looked perfect. Before she left the house to drop the cake by the church & head for work, Alice woke her daughter Amanda & gave her some money & specific instructions to be at the bake sale the moment it opened at 9:30 & to buy the cake & bring it home.

When Amanda arrived at the sale, she found the attractive, perfect cake had already been sold. She grabbed her cell phone & called her mom. Alice was horrified - she was beside herself. Everyone would know! What would they think? She would be ostracized, talked about, & ridiculed! All night, Alice lay awake in bed thinking about people pointing fingers at her & talking about her behind her back.

The next day, Alice promised herself she would try not to think about the cake & would attend the fancy luncheon/bridal shower at the home of a fellow church member & try to have a good time. Alice did not want to attend because the hostess was a snob who more than once had looked down her nose at Alice because she was a single parent & not from the founding families of Tuscaloosa. But, having already RSVP'd, she couldn't think of a believable excuse to stay home. The meal was elegant, the company was definitely upper crust old South & to Alice's horror, the cake in question was presented for dessert! Alice felt the blood drain from her body when she saw the cake!

She started out of her chair to tell the hostess all about it, but before she could get to her feet, the Mayor's wife said, "What a beautiful cake!" Alice still stunned, sat back in her chair when she heard the hostess (who was a prominent church member) say, "Thank you, I baked it myself." Alice smiled and thought to herself, "God is good."



Birthdays and Anniversaries in March



Birthdays

Jess Allison	March 3	Bonnie Boehnke	March 23
Dick Ellis	March 12	Bob Gough	March 1
Jack Herrick	March 27	Karl Kiichle	March 5
Peggy Sue Kropf	March 7	Richard Kuch	March 12
John Kutrowski	March 12	Kathleen Madsen	March 7
Dennis McGillis	March 26	Judy Rascon	March 23
Mary Rickard	March 17	Jack Stone	March 6
Barbara Thomas	March 16	Jerry Wells	March 14



Anniversaries

Boyd & Bev Boothe	March 24
Jim & Sue Jewett	March 1
Lynn & Lindy Patterson	March 25
Kurt & DaJuan Recknagle	March 7
Denny & Janice Wellington	March 4

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