

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

Jim & Ginger Vetrano  
4512 W. Yellowstone Ave.  
Kennewick, WA 99336



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# Gas Gauge

February  
~~JANUARY~~  
2007

A publication of  
Ye Olde Car Club

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## PRESIDENT'S BACK FIRE

Well gang: I've been overwhelmed by all the enthusiasm, and outpouring of energy in planning events. In your Dreams!!! We have to find a way to get your nose out of your pancakes and have some fun with these automobiles. I'm going to suggest to the board that we assign people to plan events for the up coming months. There is more to membership than just paying dues. Check out Fred's list of events.

Oh by the way Dues are Due by the end of February.

Remember you jalopy won't move, until you get your foot off the brake.

## Events

Feb 9	Chocolate Extravaganza	Vetrano's
March 17	Heppner Irish Days Tour	Shreves
April	Southridge Show	Walters
June	LeGrande Tour	Shreve's
July	Parade	
August	Fair Parade and Picnic	McClary

## DUES ARE DUE

It is that time of the year again. Dues are now due. The dues for this year is \$15.00. You can mail a check for \$15.00 to Ed Edwards, the club's treasurer at P. O. Box 4566, West Richland, WA 99353.

## CHOCOLATE EXTRAVAGANZA

Jim and Ginger Vetrano will be hosting a Chocolate Extravaganza. It will be held February 9th at 7 p.m. at 4512 W. Yellowstone Ave, Kennewick. Those planning on attending will need to bring something Chocolate. They have been doing this the past 2-3 years. It has always been a fun activity. Hope to see you there.

## FOR SALE

1928 4-door Model A sedan, completely restored, runs excellent, \$9,500 or best offer.

1930 2-door Model A coupe, completely restored, runs excellent, \$9,500 or best offer.

1960 2-door Nash Metropolitan sports coupe, completely restored, runs excellent, \$7,500 or best offer.

Contact Joe Kuhns, 586-6848 or 947-2425

## Club Activities List

Here are some great suggestions for activities for the club. Take a moment to read over the list and then pick a few to do. Activities are not limited to the whole club, it can be a few families getting together and can also be held on more than one day or weekend.

Pot Luck dinner	Saturday Breakfast
Chili/Soup Feed	Spaghetti Feed
Baked Potato Feed	Car Shows at various locations
Progressive Dinner	Host Swap meet set up night
Pizza Party	Christmas Light tour
Homemade Ice Cream Social	Christmas Boat Tour/Bon Fire
Box Lunch Party	Host meeting for YOCC
Catered Dinner	1st Night Tri-Cities (Dec 31st)
Visit the Retirement Homes	Parades
Local Garage Tour	Corn Feed in Summer/Fall
School Tours— Show the cars to youngsters	
Christmas Dinner/Canned Food Drive	

## Day and Overnight Tours

Darigold at Sunnyside	Tour of Parks
Whestlen Jacks on White Pass	Camp Wooten
Garage Tours out of town	Moses Lake
Yakima Canyon	Weston-breakfast/lunch at the Longbranch
Foliage Tour (Tollgate Area)	John Day Fossil Tour
Walla Walla Museum	Picture Tour
Prosser Museum	Soap Lake
East Benton County Museum	Grand Coulee Light Show
Pendleton Underground Tour	Hood River Train Ride
Dayton	Baker City

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**There is an urban legend** about a fellow who sees a classified ad in the newspaper offering a 1957 Mercedes 300 SL for \$500. Of course, he figures it is a misprint and that the price is at least \$500,000, but he calls anyway, just out of curiosity. Then, to his surprise, a woman answers the phone and tells him that the ad is not a misprint and invites him to have a look at the car.

The fellow drives over to the woman's large, beautiful home in Beverly Hills and, as he walks up the drive, he spots an immaculate silver gullwing sitting in the garage. He knocks on the door, and a nice-looking middle-aged woman answers. After introductions, the fellow says, "That's not the car you're selling, is it?" She says:

"Yes it is, and I'm offering it to you for \$500."

"Is there something wrong with the title?" he asks.

"No, it's clear." She says.

The fellow then excitedly pulls five \$100 bills out of his wallet and hands them to her, whereupon she signs the title and hands it to him along with the keys. The buyer can't stand the suspense any longer, so he says:

"Okay, now that I have bought it, you really must tell me the story of this car."

She says, "Well, my husband ran away to Paris with his secretary, and then he ran low on funds, so he phoned and asked me to sell the Mercedes and send him the money."

Who knows if it ever happened or not, but if it is true, the buyer got one heck of a deal on a Mercedes. However, on a more serious note, I wonder how many of us have taken the time to tell our spouses what our cars are worth, and who to call if something happens to us and they need to sell them. In the event that we go on to that big concours d'elegance in the sky, our loved ones need to have a realistic idea of what to expect as regards the value of our collection. And that means we need to have a realistic idea of the value of our collections ourselves.

Auction results are one useful criterion, but they can be deceiving. That's because, now and then, rich collectors get into bidding wars over cars and pay far beyond current value just to beat out the other guy. A few evenings ago on the Speed Channel, I saw a couple at the Barrett Jackson auction pay \$160,000 for a standard 1970 Mustang coupe in just such a frenzy. The car was immaculate, but it was one you could buy any day of the week for a fraction of that price.

There is also another problem with auction prices, and that is, a car like yours may not have been offered for sale in the last few years, so the figure listed from the last sale is likely to be way too low. And obviously, condition, desirability of model and year and other factors influence the value of a vehicle, too,

and those things are sometimes hard to discern from auction data.

Appraisals are useful, but they can be expensive, and they are only good for a limited time. If you do have your car(s) appraised, be sure to use a qualified appraiser with a lot of experience, and tell them your reason for having your vehicle valued. That's because the appraiser works for you, and if he thinks you want a higher appraisal for insurance purposes, or a lower one for tax reasons, he is likely to oblige.

My personal appraisal method is to peruse every issue of *Hemmings Motor News* and note in my mind what my cars—and cars I may someday want to buy—are selling for. And, yes, this is a plug for my employer, but then I was a subscriber long before I started writing this column. In fact, *Hemmings* has been my one indispensable source of car values for more than 30 years and I highly recommend it. I'm not currently seeking to purchase or sell any cars, but I keep abreast anyway, just out of habit, and also because if I do stumble on an exceptional value, I can jump on it with confidence.

But let me clarify something at this point: I consider it unethical and reprehensible to take advantage of a widow or anyone who does not know what a classic car is worth. I would not want such a thing to happen to my wife or family, and I wouldn't do it to anyone else's family either. In fact, a couple of times I have explained to older women (they happened to be women, in this case) that they were asking far too little for their old cars, and then helped them sell the vehicles for fair prices.

All of us naturally want to get top dollar for our collector cars when we sell them, and we want to find bargains when we buy, but that is not what I am talking about. It is one thing to buy at a bit under market value, and quite another to steal a car outright, even if the seller helps you do it. In my own case, I know approximately what my cars are worth, and my wife knows what to do if something happens to me and she chooses to sell them. She merely needs to call my good friend Robert Escalante at Custom Auto Service and let him unload the cars for her.

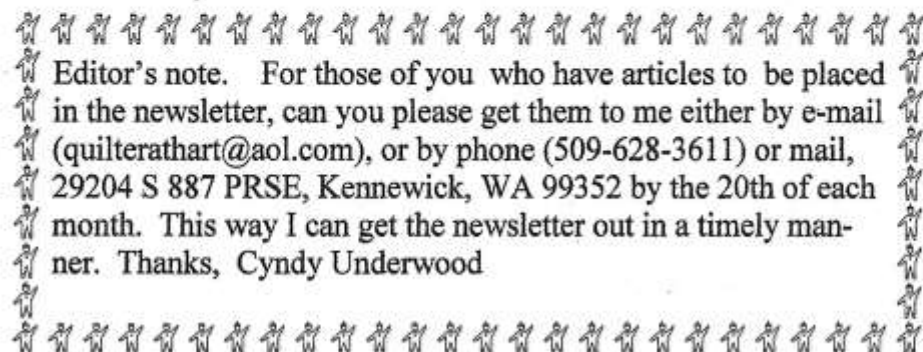
Many of us are approaching a certain age, and some of us have as many as eight to 10 cars or more. I even know one fellow who has 300 cars, and he is over 80 years old! But whether you are the proud owner of eight or 80 cars, you are probably sitting on a fair amount of money, so it might behoove you to establish and keep track of what they are worth, and offer your spouse some advice on what to do if he or she needs to sell your collection.

And then, don't do anything silly like running away to Paris with your secretary. In that case, you might just get what you deserve. Personally, I'm still watching the classifieds for that \$500 300 SL. I have the cash and am ready to move quickly if necessary. After all, the guy was asking for trouble . . . ☛



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Overnight Foliage Tours	Leavenworth Christmas Tour
Tom Hall Green Acres	Paulose Falls/Lions Ferry Picnic
Sisters Oregon Lava Beds	Petrified Forest near Vantage
Silverwood—Idaho	Enterprise, Oregon
Multnomah Falls & Falls Drive—Gorge	
Portland Zoo/Forest Museum	Mt. Hood—Paradise Ridge
Crater Lake - Oregon	Othello Daze
LeMay Car show—Tacoma	Hat Rock State Park —Picnic


 Editor's note. For those of you who have articles to be placed in the newsletter, can you please get them to me either by e-mail (quilterathart@aol.com), or by phone (509-628-3611) or mail, 29204 S 887 PRSE, Kennewick, WA 99352 by the 20th of each month. This way I can get the newsletter out in a timely manner. Thanks, Cyndy Underwood

## BIRTHDAYS

1	Judy Oeder
	Gary Stredwick
2	Robert Gordon
3	Ludmila Kramer
4	Dixie Gilbert
6	Sally Rutherford
14	Jim Vetrano
15	Dave Bergum
19	Grace Jackson
27	Theora Williams

## ANNIVERSARIES

10	Willie & Rachel Gould
	Ken & Myrtle Nesbitt
14	Jim & Ginger Vetrano