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Gas Gauge

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Ye Olde Car Club

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President's Backfire



I've included a "Jim Richardson Column" out of Classic Car because it had some close ties to what happening in my personal automotive world. At a recent club breakfast I listened to Red & Joe discussing the intricacies of shifting and breaking a Model T. I've never driven one so it was all new to me. The "take on Old Guy to a show" article refers to a similar discussion.

On my current project car, a 1986 Buick Wagon (I know it doesn't fit the "antique" profile, but it's my area of interest). I'm having trouble with an experimental power brake assist. None of the mechanics, or junk yard guys really know much about it. Since it was only put on some Buick & Olds Wagons and Buick Grand Nationals I went to Desert Buick & Leskavar Oldsmobile to find some one who knew about such things. One older mechanic, who is on vacation, is known to have worked on this G.M. Rube-Goldberg invention. It was such a pain they quit making them. My point is we need our elders to even keep a 21 year old car running.

This "piece" is to point out the value and fun of being a member of a group of automobiles aficionados (enthusiasts) to commensurate with on such quandaries. By the way, this dilemma is

Not solved yet as the idiot light keeps coming on.

Over all the club has been pretty active. Our schedule for Sept. October is great. I've only received one telephone call concerning our "dropping inactive, non dues paying people". I'm glad we're cleaning it up.

We owe a big Thank You to the folks who are organizing the events. I just wish I could participate in all them. I hope most of you can attend and go on some of these events.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

| | |
|--------|-------------------------------|
| Oct. 6 | Fall Foliage Tour Wallowa OR. |
| Nov | Veteran's Day Parade |
| Dec | Christmas Party |

A THANK YOU

Good Morning! I just received my copy of the club news, Gas Gauge. I wish to thank you and all of the club members for the really good things that you did for my father Eldon Reiman. It was really great to see so many of the club members at his funeral and that they all brought their cars was a wonderful send off to my dad. He never really wanted much attention to himself and never was a name dropper.

As a mechanic most of his life during the powerful 60's he worked on the early Ford Cobras and changed some of the front suspension geometry to get them to handle better and be more competitive in the road race circuits. He was offered a huge Salary to move to North Carolina in 1964 (or 1965) to go to work for Holman and Moody in their Nascar race series Fords. He turned it down for us, his family as that was as important to him as good friends.

Anyway I just wanted to thank you all. It is a wonderful Club and for that My brother and I are very Grateful.

Dick Reiman

Hello everyone who may have met me either when one of your ex-presidents, my brother John Nelson, and I made a 1000 mile Great Circle tour with Ye Olde Car Club in the 1926 Dodge a few years ago or on one of my more recent visits to the "outback" of Washington state from my far distant home new Daytona Beach. From time to time, I have contributed items to the Gas Gauge, the funniest being probably when I sent a picture of John and me playing on the sands while on vacation to Florida when we were about 4 and 5 years old and your editor asked if anyone recognized who the brothers might be. Among those who guessed wrong was one John Nelson!

Now I have another hopefully interesting 2 part tale to relate. In 1948 when I was 14 years old, my parents bought a new 1948 Ford Station Wagon (what is nowadays called a Woodie) and so I have been driving them that long as it was possible to get a license to drive alone at age 14 back then. We have owned basically the identical Woodie now for quite a few years and you can guess it is a truly nostalgic feeling every time I drive ours. It is completely stock including the original radio and clock and looks gorgeous just like when it came out of the factory. Last March, my wife, Carol, and I in our 1948 along with 15 other antique cars took a 700 mile tour up into Georgia and through northwest Florida. Our Woodie performed like a champ and we had a great time, visiting several collections and 2 museums. One of the collections belongs to a Dr. Cade—the man who is responsible for the "invention" of Gatorade". (you can verify his credentials on the internet as I did.) He has a wonderful collection of over 50 Studebakers from the horse drawn wagons of pre-auto days to the final production Studebakers—all beautifully restored. The only non Studebaker he had was a lonely Metropolitan! Cairo Georgia (which is pronounced Kay-roy" and where KARO syrup come from!) was our furthest destination and there they had quite a car show and a "Poker Run". The Run involved over 100 cars and was about 45 miles long with 4 check points along the way. At the conclusion, we checked in with the "officials" who verified that we had all the check points checked off. They then dealt out 5 poker hands and we were to choose one. The fellow right ahead of me was one of our group of 15 cars and he picked a hand and revealed that he had 3 10's and a 7. They told him that was the highest hand yet.

Then I was told to pick a hand and I asked Carol to choose one. She declined, saying she would be bad luck, so I chose a hand and by golly, if I didn't have 3 Aces and an 8. I am not a poker player, but they told me that beat my friend's previous hand. 2 or 3 hours later they summoned everybody over the PA system to announce the winners of the Poker Run. They called out the 3rd place winner and it was one of our group who had driven his 1936 Ford convertible sedan. He won \$50 and I thought that was pretty nice that one of our group of 15 cars who had come over 300 miles had been a winner. Then they called out the 2nd place who won \$75 and it was my friend who had picked his hand just before me and drawn the 3 10's. I was thinking if he was the runner up and they had said my hand was better than his and sure enough—Victor Nelson won the big prize of \$125! Coincidentally, our total gas costs on the 700 mile trip were \$125.53! I guess it was my skill at poker that made me the winner. What do you think? AT the time the 3 winners were announced, all 3 of us winning couples were standing within 10 feet of one another.

Now to part 2 of my tale. I know most of you folks are fur distant from Hershey, Pennsylvania and probably have never heard of this here car show and humungous flea market they have there. At any rate, kidding aside, my brother John has flown down to Florida half a dozen times and driven up with us to take in both the Carlisle show (which is only 35 miles from Hershey and precedes the Hershey show by 2-3 days) and the Hershey show. I personally have been to the Hershey show almost 30 times though it is over 1000 miles away. The event, for me is the Car Corral of about 1500 vehicles. The Hershey show is AACA and they mandate that all the Car Corral cars must be stock—NO Hot Rods or significantly modified cars. This for me is a real treat. Some of the rarest and most unusual vehicles come out of the woodwork such as e.g. a Stout Scarab and a few years ago, a 1948 Nash Ambassador convertible—one of 990 built which the original owner was selling after having bought it new 50 years before. It was accident free and all stock, except for a repaint and new top 20 years earlier. As my brother and the Shreves and Jack Yale at least know, I purchased this car as I had always wanted one. However, my wife felt it was "to big", and so we did not keep it long. Last September, when John flew down

to Florida, he sat next to some people on the plane who it turned out lived in the same city as we do. They talked about antique cars and they learned the John was coming down to go to Hershey with his brother. They offered to give him a ride to our house, but he had already arranged and paid for the airport shuttle, so he reluctantly declined. This was soon to be to his sorrow, as though he was on time, the shuttle left about 3 minutes early resulting in a 2 hour wait until the next shuttle. When we finally picked him up, he related this whole story of the shuttle having left early after he had turned down a ride from these nice people he had met. Fast forward a year—a week ago, we called to see how one of the folks who had been on the Cairo tour with us was—the one who had won the "2nd Poker Run prize" because I had heard that he was having some Carotid artery surgery. He answered the phone and though he said he had had a rough time, things worked out well and he had come home from the hospital 3 days earlier. He invited us to stop over. An hour later, we went to visit them and I took along a few old car pictures including several of our Amphicar. When I showed the pictures to his wife, she said "Oh, you have one of those!" She said we sat next to someone on the plane last September who has one of those or is part owner of one with someone who lives here. He was from Washington state to which I replied that we have several members in Washington. She said, in fact we offered to give him a ride, but he had already made arrangements with the shuttle. This tale started to sound familiar, but then when she got to thinking, she said "he was coming to see his brother and they were going to drive up to Hershey." BINGO—I already knew the whole story. Actually, last September, we and this couple did not know each other, but now we had become fairly good friends though they did not know we owned an Amphicar. So what do you know? Is it sometimes a small world? I have several more small world car stories that you could find quite interesting—3 stories in fact that are better than the ones related here. If you want more stories, let me know, but remember I am now a "former member" and my brother John is the member!

Victor Nelson in Florida

Take an Old Guy to a Car Show



For years I have been a strong advocate of taking kids to car shows, and I still am. But these days I'm on another mission as well. My new slogan is: Take an old guy (or gal) to a car show. Of course it's all relative, but to most people, I'm an old guy at 65. However, I have friends who are in their 80s, and they think I'm young. Just chatting with them is an enlightening experience. And, sadly, their wealth of knowledge and firsthand information about old cars won't be with us too much longer.

The idea for my Take an Old Guy to a Car Show program came to me a while back, when a local club to which I belong held a little show at a retired actors' home in Woodland Hills, California. It was a great day for the club as well as for the aging thespians. I don't know who enjoyed the event more—the club members who got to meet the stars of yesteryear, or the actors who remembered our cars when they were new.

My 1939 Packard 120 convertible coupe was a special hit with the older performers. It seems that Packard was the car to have back when it was built. You see, 1939 was the golden age of the movies, and the big walk-in cinemas as well. That's the year *Gone With the Wind* came out (for you youngsters, it's a three-hanky chick flick that takes place during the Civil War), along with *The Wizard of Oz*, *Singeroach* and *Goodbye Mr. Chips*. Also debuting that year were *The Three Musketeers* and *Gunga Din*.

My favorite was *Gunga Din* because of the beautiful British Hawker Hart between-the-wars biplane fighters featured in it, and because Gunga himself—in an act of supreme loyalty—ends up absorbing more lead than a Barris custom while trying to warn the rest of the guys of an impending ambush by blowing his bugle. It doesn't get much more poignant than that.

If you don't know any old guys, adopt one, or go to the kinds of shows they might frequent. You could learn a few things. For example, I have never driven or ridden in a Model T Ford, but I have learned to love them from the old guys who own and display them. Those cars were long gone by the time I was a kid, but I have found out a bit about them anyway.

You see, one of my favorite shows and swap meets is the one the local Model T club puts on every year. Those cars were amazingly well designed. Their utter simplicity meant that any farmer could work on one of them. And as a consequence of their bare-bones simplicity, they could be sold for a relatively paltry sum to the public. And they lasted practically forever if you kept them up.

Model T Fords were so simple that they had no water pump, fuel pump or electric starter. But they did have a semi-automatic, clutchless two-speed transmission. I hear driving one of them is like nothing else you have experienced. Shifting and braking is done with pedals on the floor, but there is no clutch and the throttle is just a lever on the steering column,

much like the throttle on a tractor. Hence, when applying the car's rear-wheel-only mechanical brakes, you need to remember to move the lever back to idle in order to stop. I learned this from old guys who found these things out the hard way.

The drivelines in such antique cars were also interesting. In the early days, they tried belts, chains, and friction discs and rollers. But the Model T had a relatively modern closed driveline with one forward universal joint and straight-cut gears in the differential. The closed driveline helped keep the rear axle lined up, but the straight-cut gears in the differentials were noisy. And then in the late Twenties, Packard came out with hypoid, spiral-cut gears that were much quieter.

I picked up this information from old guys as well—a couple of whom are no longer with us. Another thing I learned from an older friend who has gone on to the great interstate in the sky is that if you blew a rod bearing on a Twenties-era car and needed to get into town, you could scrape out an old babbiting in the connecting rod and wrap a piece of leather belt around the crankshaft. You then tightened the rod back into place and could go many miles if you took it easy.

Do you know how to adjust twin carburetors quickly? Get a piece of windshield wiper hose and hold one end to the throat of one of the carburetors and the other to your ear. Listen to the sucking sound, set it so it sounds full and hollow, and then adjust the other carb to the same pitch. It works. I got this trick from another old guy.

But I didn't come up with my Take an Old Guy to a Car Show program purely for selfish reasons. Some older people can no longer drive, and many do not have the stamina to go to shows on their own, but would dearly love to see the classics again. Also, many older car buffs have lost friends with whom they used to do things, and they don't necessarily want to go to events alone.

If you take an older car buff along, you get the pleasure of seeing him enjoy himself, and you will most likely be repaid handsomely by being regaled with his firsthand knowledge of bygone days, a perspective that is not easily attainable from books. You may not be able to tour all of a huge show with an old guy in tow, but you can always see more cars another time. Of course, some of those old guys will run your young butt off and still be ready for more.

It may not matter to most people why they once built V-16 Cadillacs, or how a Buick Dyna-Flow transmission worked, or what the 4-4-2 on Oldsmobile's muscle cars meant, but car buffs aren't most people, and older car buffs can tell you these things and a lot more and would enjoy doing it, too. And after the show, take the old guy to lunch. You might just find out what is causing that whine in second gear in your Marador, or why your Ford Retractable is stuck with its top halfway down. ☺

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Ye Olde Car Club News

The Manor at Canyon Lakes invited Ye Olde Car Club to bring our cars on Friday, September 7, 2007. Eight cars were enjoyed by the residents and lots of stories were swapped. Attendees were treated to sausage dogs, potato salad, baked beans, chips and ice cream cones. There was also fresh squeezed lemonade and beer.

Canyon Lakes held a drawing amongst the car drivers for a gift basket. Martha Shreve held the winning ticket. She received an ice bucket complete with Coke, an Alaskan Ale, nuts, chocolates, and Slim Jims. Fred Wattenberger won a calendar in the same drawing.

Jan Mokler, Myrtle Nesbitt, and Red Rutherford are members of our club and residents at The Manor. Jan's car "Franne" was there and Red had his Model T/A (questions ask Red).

Fall Foliage Tour

The Fall Foliage Tour will be on Saturday, October 6, 2007. Some of us will be going down on Friday and spending the night at the Stampede Inn in Elgin, OR (1-541-437-2441 make your own reservation). The tour leaves by train from Elgin at 9:30 AM and will be along the Grande Ronde River and the Wallowa River both designated as "Wild and Scenic Rivers". We should see a lot of wildlife and beautiful mountain scenery. Lunch will be provided as part of the cost. The train returns at approximately 3:00 PM.

If you would like to go along with us, please call Alegre Travel, La-Grande, OR 1-800-323-7330. Please identify yourself as being with Ye Olde Car Club when you make your reservations for the train. If we have 20 people, they will reserve a train car for us.

Questions? Call Martha Shreve 582-7530.

The following was taken from You Tube. The information was given to our President who then gave it to me.

Double Fatal Model A vs Nissan Titan—Graham WA

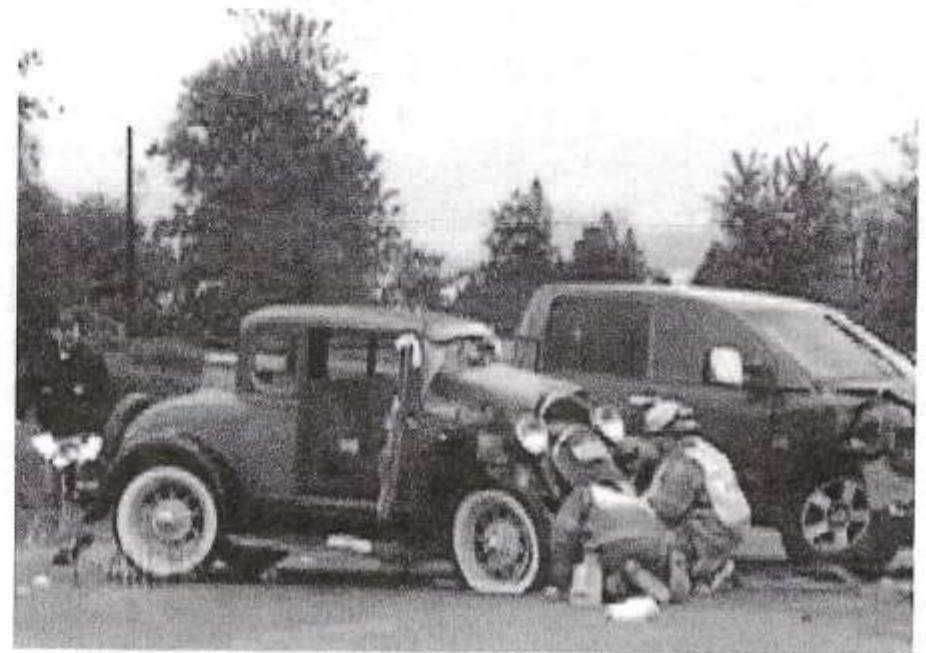
A sad story from May 7, 2005. The driver and passenger of the Model A were killed when the driver of the Titan failed to yield when making a left turn. The elderly couple was returning home from an antique car event. Several other friends drove past the wreck in their own classic cars.

The driver died at the scene. The passenger, his wife, died at the hospital. Seat belts might have allowed for a different out come, but were not installed in the Model A. Because of the age of the vehicle, seat belts were not required.

I don not know if the driver of the Titan was later charged with anything.

They did. The driver at the scene in the aid car, his wife at the hospital. The driver took the steering column in the chest and both hit the windshield.

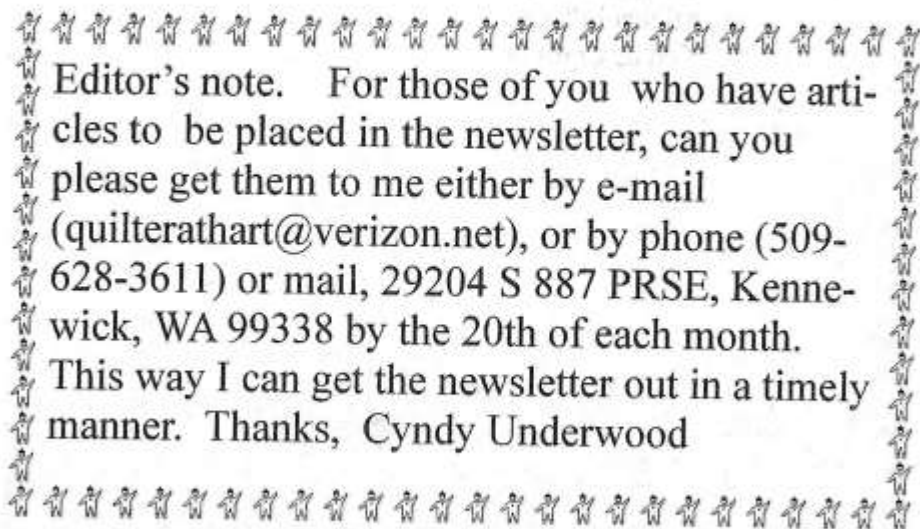
Double Fatal Model A vs Nissan Titan - Graham WA



WHO SAID IT?

1. Always do right. This will gratify some people and astonish the rest.
answer: D Mark Twain
2. Courage is very important. Like a muscle, it's strengthened by use.
answer: Ruth Gordon
3. The man who has no imagination has no wings.
answer: Muhammed Ali
4. Getting people to like you is simply the other side of liking other people.
answer: Norman Vincent Peale
5. You can't shake hands with a clenched fist.
answer: Golda Meir

This was taken out of a publication called *Good Stuff*.


 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@verizon.net), or by phone (509-628-3611) or mail, 29204 S 887 PRSE, Kennewick, WA 99338 by the 20th of each month. This way I can get the newsletter out in a timely manner. Thanks, Cyndy Underwood

BIRTHDAYS

1. Ward Moberg
2. Myrtle Nesbitt
4. Rachel Gould
7. Lee Jackson
8. Bill Boyce
8. Dale Henson
10. Joyce Burt
14. John Nelson
15. Art Goldgrave
19. "Red" Rutherford
20. Jan Underwood
22. Dale Petty
24. Sandy Klipper

ANNIVERSARIES

5. "Rocky" & Patti Ybarra
16. Terry & Edris Shegrud
24. Michael & Sherrie Boob
25. Ken & Carolyn Shreve