

GAS GAUGE

May 2012

Monthly Newsletter of Ye Olde Car Club



Junk, junk & more stuff

The upteenth annual Ye Olde Care Club Swap meet at the Benton County Fairgrounds Saturday, May 5, had good participation, with plenty of magnetic attraction for us rustbums. Not a bad day, although some old-timers grouched about the almost inclement weather.

There was great participation from the YOCC gang who helped set up and take down after the event, too. Our president was much pleased. See his report elsewhere

There was a nice display in the Old Car Corral, where an attack cat kept close watch for security purposes, as seen above. Or maybe the feline was just providing some extra "mo... hair" for John Nelson's Spartanly upholstered Dodge screenside. For more car art, turn to the inside.

Ye Olde Car Club Swap a Success

The turnout and the weather made for a successful swap meet at the Benton County Fairgrounds in Kennewick. Martha Shreve's red Dodge pickup and Jack Yale's 1935 dual

cowl Auburn glisten in the sunlight, while Bob McClary risks a smile and John Nelson peddles heaters. The Ford speedster caught attention, as did fancy logos on display.



Way Back When

(Taken from the Feb. 19, 1950 edition of the Tri-City Herald. We pick up the story in the late 1880s.)

By Mrs. R.E. Reed

KENNEWICK: FIRST AUTOS ARRIVE

In 1904, Alex Bier brought the first automobile to town. Dr. Crosley the second and H.A. Howe the first Ford.

The first strawberries were shipped and brought as high as \$12 to \$15 a crate.

Kennewick was incorporated as a city Feb. 5. The first mayor was O.L. Hanson. Edward Sheppard was the second mayor and S.E. Johnson the third. One of the first things done by the city council was to make plans to get water piped so trees could be planted along the streets, and to have the streets themselves improved.

BIT OF YAKIMA SPLITS MAKE BENTON COUNTY

Up to this time we had been in Yakima County. It was decided that the county was too large, so it was divided and the southern part called Benton.

The year 1905 saw the S.P. & S. Begin to build the railroad east of town. The depot was erected and a large crew of men put to work on the road bed.

The first Fruit Growers association was formed with Charlie Collins as manager.

A number of men interested in music organized a band and hired Prof. Joslin as director. Both the Masonic and Odd Fellows lodges were organized. W. F. Sonderman, who still lives on the Highlands, was one of the men instrumental in forming the I.O.O.F.

STEEL RR BRIDGE BUILT OVER COLUMBIA

The school board hired a bus for the free transportation of school children.

Kennewick enjoyed "its first ice 'parlor,' as it was called.

The city council began plans to have wooden sidewalks laid

The best strawberry year Kennewick had ever experienced was in 1905. Seven carloads were shipped, averaging \$5 a crate.

On June 2, Mr. Soth purchased the newspaper from Mr. Shaughnessy.

(To be continued)

Birthdays & Anniversaries

2nd	Loretta Jackson	19th	Scott Noga
6th	Don Meyer	20th	Aline Sanders
14th	Mary Ellen Nelson	23rd	Audrey Simmelink
17th	Helen Duffield	27th	Russ Armstrong

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4th	Dave & Judy Bergum	11th	Bud & Theora Williams
29th	Aline & Oden Sanders		

Remembering our friend

Russ Duffield of Moxee passed away April 21 at age 95. He was a lifelong resident of Moxee and a founding member of Ye Olde Car Club back in the 1960s. Russ loved old Ford automobiles, and had a Reo in his collection. But his pride and joy was a 1929 Stuz fire engine. He is survived by his wife, Helen Duffield, whose birthday is May 17. Helen said they would have been married 75 years this coming June 27. She said Russ had broken his hip and been in a rehab facility for six weeks. All of Russ' automobiles were given to his sons and grandsons prior to his death, Helen said.

Nuts & Bolts . . .

***http://wwbooks.google.com/books/about/Automotive_ignition_systems.html=HKEgAAAAMAAJ
Will get you a copy of a 1920 book all about ignition systems, magnetos and how-to stuff about early autos.

Prez sez

By Jim Ayers, president

Well, that's another swap meet in the books. Everyone knew their jobs, completed them on schedule, and just made life wonderful during the swap meet. What a team!

Maybe it was just me , but last year I was drained after that swap meet. This year I feel great and ready for more activities. I hope it is the same for you.

We don't have an exact count on income from sale of booths, but the only spots available Saturday were inside the building. The guys on the golf carts guiding customers to their specific locations worked great.

Looking west of the "S" section and seeing rows of trucks disconnected from their trailers showed how well we overcame a problem that had plagued us for years.

Clean up was a breeze, too, with all the help and the leaf blowers, except for those four tires someone left behind.

The donation box collections tallied \$1,556.80, which is about \$108 more than last year. A full report on all swap proceeds will available in about a week.

One lesson learned is that we need to open the gate for vendors at 2 p.m. Friday. This year we couldn't get in until after 3:30 p.m. Because of an extra lock on the chain that shouldn't have been there.

We also saw that having golf carts at the gate to help escort the incoming traffic helped get vendors to their booths, thereby reducing confusion.

All in all, a good swap meet. Thanks to all.

Fender chatter

By John Trumbo, editor

Your editor tried, but didn't make it to the April 28 Benton City Opener. Ye olde 1986 Toyota 4-Runner blew its head gasket about two miles short of the event. In retrospect, it was not entirely unexpected after 26 years of good service, at right at 315,000 miles. As a result, there are no photos in

this edition from the Benton City affair. My apologies all around.

However, our faithful correspondent at Benton City reported that Jack Yale's 1935 Auburn broke down (gasp!) with a bad battery. All hands on deck finally got the beast fired up and Jack's son-in-law piloted the ailing auto back to its barn in Kennewick under its own power (yeah!).

There also was a fender bender when a military rig known as a Duck backed into a 1940 Ford at the Benton City event, leaving a nice big scratch. The Duck and its driver are from Moses Lake, where his club presents an annual Wounded Duck Award.

Guess who is in line for the ducky prize this year?

Quack, quack quack.

As a positive: we noticed Jack Yale is back in the driver's seat, attending Wednesday AM breakfasts, and seen loitering about in a golf cart with his rustbum buddies at the swap meet.

Don't forget to take time to note the upcoming events in our YOCC calendar listings on the next page. Thanks.

Goofs or gaffs? Contact 582-4297 or yocc@owt.com.

Verse by the Side of the Road

- ☞ Don't put your elbow
- ☞ Out to far
- ☞ It might go home
- ☞ In another car

Burma-Shave

May-June Activities

Charbonneau Retirement Home , Kennewick, **May 10.**

Royal Columbian Retirement Home, **May 12** from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., with lunch.

Walla Walla Balloon Stampede Saturday, **May 12th** from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Canyon Lakes Manor Saturday, **May 19th** at 12 noon. Lunch is at 1 p.m.

Benton City Reunion/ Car Show , Saturday, **May 26**, 9 a.m., with food.

Moses Lake Spring Festival Saturday, **May 29th** from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Mustang Restoration Tour with picnic, Saturday, **June 2.**

Pendleton for the annual Olde Iron Show, Saturday, **June 2.**

LeMay America's Car Museum, Portland. **June 2-3**, Grand opening from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. with free admission. Details at www.lemaymuseum.org.

Yakima Valley Swap Meet, **June 9**, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at State Fair Park, exit 34. Admission \$5.

Ye Old Car Club Brass

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In the rearview mirror...



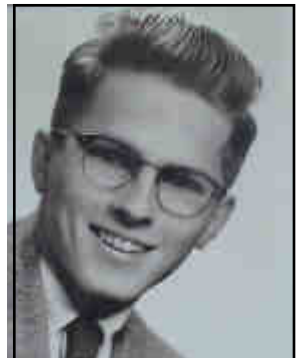
Our **Guess Who???** for May owns a pair of obscure autos, whose maker existed for only four years. His touring and sedan are from the assembly line of the Jewett, which was built by the Paige-Detroit Motor Car Co. beginning in 1923, but went the way of the Model T in 1927. He also has a 1928



Here it is, the 1925 Jewett sedan, with new woodwork and awaiting the next phase. YOCC club member Jim Vetrano fashioned all the wood from scratch, without any of the original wood to use a patterns. Great job, Jim.

Chevrolet in running condition and a 1950 Chevy sport coupe that will sport a V-6 Vortex engine under the hood. Clearly our ??? is not a Ford man. So who is this soft-spoken native of Amity, Ore., who grew up in Richland? He also is a long-

time friend of YOCC member Russ Armstrong when they were in 6th grade together. Final clue: ??? and his wife own a home near Benton City with a lovely view of the Yakima River where he can take a break to enjoy his other favorite pastime, fishing. The photo at the right should be enough to reveal this month's ??? is Willie Gould.



Suggestion for Rearview mirror? Call editor at 582-4297 ASAP.