



# MMOCC Newsletter –

**JUNE 2020**

*Mid Mo Old Car Club  
PO Box 1594,  
Jefferson City, MO 65102*

## NEW WORDS

While we are still apprehensive about group gatherings, COVID-19, and coughs, we are also curious about Social Distancing and Sheltering in Place. So many **new words and phrases** that Spell Check does not recognize. This “new normal” is odd, but it is the world we live in.

While following the rules, MMOCC has adapted with Zoom Coffee Hour, Cruises, Tours, and more emails than usual. Our goal was to entertain and engage you during these odd times, so hopefully we did. Never feel obligated to put yourself at risk, but we have fairly safe options if you want to get out.

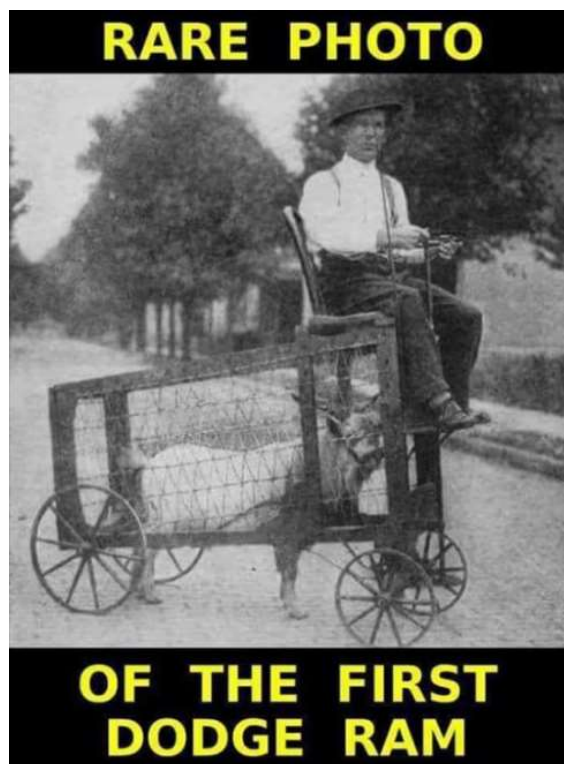
Saturday, June 20 at 9am, meet at the Capital Mall for the Poker Chip Run and drive your old car. Details distributed the day of and via email, previously sent.

Thursday, June 25, we will socially distance at Kenny Braun’s Lake (9404 Route B). Kenny has agreed to barbeque the meat, but, with the price of meat, he would appreciate donations to help defray the cost. Please bring your own drink, a dish to share, and your table service. If questions or can help, contact Kenny at 573-821-2586

*MMOCC President Lyle Rosburg*

## SHIRTS:

We have increased our MMOCC Shirt Inventory. We have T-shirts in gray and white, collared polo-type shirts, and a humorous T-shirt addition. If your shirt looks dingy, time to upgrade! Shirts available at future meetings and events.



# STORIES

Contributed by new MMOCC member Craig Haugen:

## Mercedes-Benz model 770

### Solum Drives Quisling Car – (Public Opinion-Decorah Iowa-April 1950)

At the left is Torgay Solum of Skotselv, Norway as he looks over the papers that enabled him to come to the United States for a six months visit. Solum is visiting the Carol O. Haga family who live about a mile west of Decorah.



VISITS AT HAGAS

Solum wrote to Carl Haga for certification to enter the United States for his visit. The two men are old friends as Solum was a resident of Madison township from 1929 to 1936 and worked on the Haga farm and with the Madison telephone company at that time. He is also visiting his brother Hans Solum who lives near the Hagas.



### Drives Quisling's Car

In the top picture is the special German Mercedes car used by Vidkun Quisling when he was in power in Norway during the German occupation. Solum had an opportunity to drive the car and examine it through a friend who is the head of the government highway and automotive department in Norway. Solum was interested in the car in connection with his business which is designing and selling industrial machinery.

Mrs. Howard Holtan, wife of a friend of Solum's is about to get into the car. The picture was taken two weeks ago.

### Bullet Proof

The car body with the exception of the fenders is built of one half inch bullet proof steel plate, the windows are one and one half inches thick and are made in four layers. The car weighs about four tons and is powered with a 200 horsepower "compression injection" engine.

Solum stated that he would be interested in buying the engine of the car for industrial use but the Norwegian highway department which owns it would like to sell it intact to a purchaser in the U. S. He said the cost of the car would be about \$8,000.

### Automatic Greasing

The car has five gears forward, the first gear being free wheeling, and the second, third, fourth and fifth gears are silent. It is 17 feet long, seven feet wide and six feet high. It is equipped with an automatic greasing system that greases the entire car with one stroke of a lever. Top speed of the car is about 120 miles an hour.

Solum said about twenty of these special cars were built and given out as gifts by Hitler. The German commander in Norway had a car identical to it, which is now also owned by the Norwegian government. Quisling never drove out without a four car escort, a car in front and rear and one on each side, said Solum.



### **Returned In 1936**

Solum went back to his native Norway after contracting dust fever here in 1936 and has not been able to return since then because of the war. He said he has noted many changes in the city of Decorah in the 14 years of his absence, he said the stores seem to be much

larger and the number of automobiles seems to be doubled. He said he spent several hours in a large grocery market in Decorah looking around and said he would like to own a similar store in his town in Norway.

The trip from Norway to the U.S. Solum made by plane and he said the weather was poor most of the way so that the effect was startling. He left Oslo at 9 p.m. April 25 and saw nothing but clouds and fog for about 18 hours and then the clouds broke and he was looking down at Detroit in the sunlight with the immense factories and parking lots with thousands of cars. The trip by air took just 22 hours and Solum said with the new jet airliners now in production in Britain the time may be cut in half.

### **Salvage German Ship**

Salvage work on the German pocket battleship Tirpitz has been Solum's work for the past three years. A friend of Solum's in the industrial machinery business purchased the ship which is resting upside down in shallow water in a Norwegian fjord.

Near the end of the war the British bombers were constantly hunting for the big German battleships stationed on the Norwegian coast and the ships would change positions continually to try to remain hidden. The German pocket type battleship could rise and lower itself in the water, lowering in time of battle and raising when speed was necessary.

### **Capsizes**

The Tirpitz was changing positions when the British spotted it and had floated itself as high as possible because of the shallow water. A large bomb landed next to the ship pushing the water away and the ship capsized, said Solum. The ship was not damaged by the bombs because it was well armored with a foot thick steel plate.

Solum has worked in the ship under the water in a diving suit and said occasionally they still find dead German sailors as they open more room. He said 1100 bodies have been taken from the ship.

### **Member of Underground**

As a member of the Norwegian underground during the war it was Solum's duty to report military positions. He was employed by the Nazis to design machinery and could travel through the country, noting what he saw and reporting to the underground.

He said the underground usually got their instructions through the B.B.C. broadcasts from England. "Death was the penalty for owing a radio but everybody had them," said Solum. They were built into chairs and hidden in all parts of the houses. He said one friend of his had a radio built into a coffee pot that sat on the stove. The pot held an inch or two of coffee in the top and a button inside the spout turned on the radio. Another friend had a radio hidden in a bird

cage and the cage was fastened to the outside of the house so it could be swung in through a window. When the friend took his 'bird' in they listened to the news and when the news was over the bird went back outside the house.

### Trap Nazis

"The Nazis discovered that the British were dropping supplies and ammunition to the underground in the mountain forests and came after us," said Solum. We were ready for them hiding in the woods at the rim of a valley and as they came up the valley we opened fire and killed them all. "We were very lucky that the war ended four days later because it was the German practice to burn all the houses in any district where the underground rose against the troops," he said.

Solum is not married but has one brother and one sister in Norway, and a sister at Devil's Lake, North Dakota besides his brother, Hans near Decorah.



He stated that the only things which are still hard to get in Norway are coffee and sugar and clothes. The taxes in Norway are high, but the country was very lovely and the government has been able to provide food so the people are gradually getting on their feet. He said the five war years of sabotage has had its effect on the people's working habits and they have not been able to change back to full production quickly. He said he saw the first boatload of oranges and bananas since the war arriving in Norway as he was getting ready to leave.

**Note:** Vidkun Quisling last rode in the car the day following Germany's effective surrender date of 8 May 1945. At 0622 on 9 May, his vehicle escort arrived at police headquarters, Gimle Neighborhood, Kristiansand, Norway where he surrendered. He was later tried in court and executed by firing squad. "Quisling" is slang for traitor in a few languages.

There were no buyers for the vehicle, so it was salvaged and only reported remains are the bullet proof glass. The convertible model issued to Norway was reported to have undergone extensive renovations in Czechoslovakia and is in a museum in Prague.

Additional information on the Mercedes-Benz 770 can be found on Wikipedia.

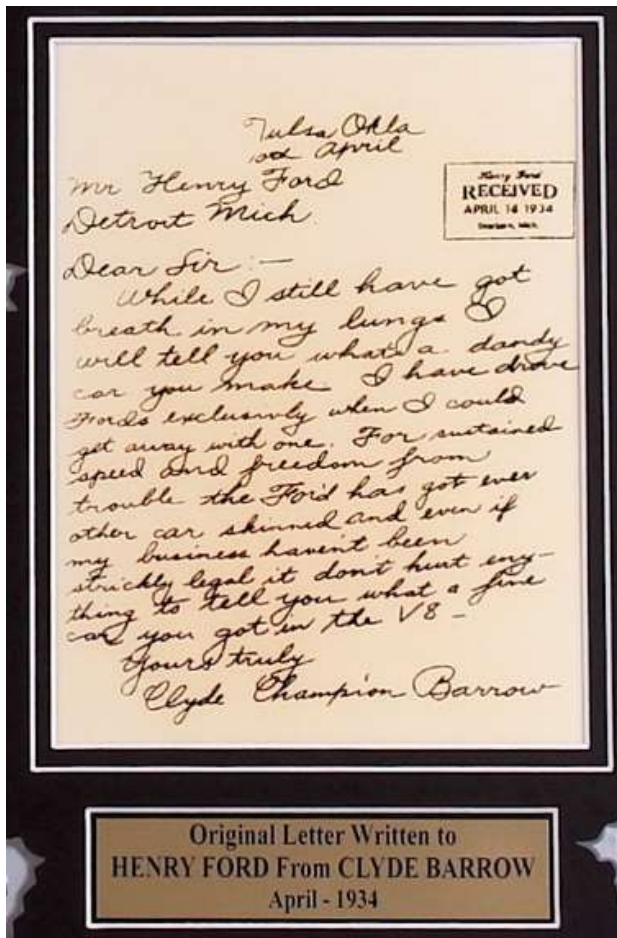
**Torgny Solum performed farm work with my great-grandfather Carl Haga. He worked with my grandfather's brother with the Madison Township Telephone Company. His brother Hans Solum started ski jumping at age 46 when his farm was established and his kids were older, winning his first contest against 39 others for a jump of 134 feet, dressed in farm overalls. He went on to win many more and established a ski jump area in Decorah, Iowa.**

*Craig Haugen, Lohman MO*

***Do you have a story?  
Car story, your first car, tech session, etc.?  
Send it to Lyle for the newsletter.***

# STAR:

During the Capital City Players recent production of "Bonnie & Clyde, the Musical", MMOCC's own Joshua Schubert contributed his Model A as a prop for the production.



# IRONY:



Central Bank building - 1920 - some spiffy cars parked along the way



**SPIFFY**

## **Upcoming Events that MMOCC Plans to Attend**

### **A. Poker Chip Run.**

- Saturday, June 20 meeting at 9am, departing at 9:30am
- Capital Mall parking lot.
- Back within 90 minutes.
- Lunch at your favorite spot (Sweet Smoke BBQ is highly recommended).

### **B. June Meeting.**

- Thursday, June 25 at 6pm.
- Braun-Be-Que. Cash donations to cover the cost of meat.
- Bring potluck, your beverage of choice, and chairs.
- Arrive as early as 4:30 with Meal at 6 and meeting to follow.
- Kenny Braun's Lake at 9404 Route B (south of the B and E intersection) 573 496 3639 or 573 821 2586.

### **C. Capital Mall Cruise In.**

- 4pm to 8pm.
- June 27 / July 25 / August 29 / September 26.

#### **D. California, MO July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade.**

- Saturday, July 4 lining up at 10am.
- Start at Cargill Staging area at 810 East Smith Street.

#### **E. Sonic Summer Nights – MMOCC Caravan.**

- *Always the Third Saturday of the Summer Months.*
- July 18 caravan leaves Schultes at 3:30pm.
- Sonic in Versailles.

#### **F. Bescheinen Cruise In at Loose Creek.**

- Saturday, July 18 starting at 5pm.
- Loose Creek, Missouri (it's not that big, so easy to find).

#### **G. July Meeting.**

- Thursday, July 23 at 6pm.
- Location and topic to be determined.

(Had been planned as the Wes Scott Swap, but Covid discourages that close gathering.)

#### **H. Capital Mall Cruise In.**

- 4pm to 8pm.
- July 25 / August 29 / September 26.

#### **I. Argyle Knights of Columbus Car Show.**

- Argyle, Missouri.
- Saturday, August 8 at 11am.

#### **J. THE GREAT RACE visits Rolla (virus permitting).**

- Tuesday, August 25 at 11:45 (rescheduled from June 23).
- The Great Race has a lunch stop in Rolla at Benton Square on 5<sup>th</sup> Street.
- Caravan from Gerbes near Eastland leaving at 10am.
- Check out the cars and talk to the drivers.
- <https://www.greatrace.com/route>
- In 2018, the Epples from Jefferson City hosted MMOCC at their hanger and taught us about The Great Race. They will participate again in 2020.

#### **K. August Meeting.**

- Thursday, August 27 at 6pm.
- Location and topic to be determined.

#### **L. Truman VA and Vet Center Car Show.**

- Truman VA Medical Center, Columbia, Missouri.
- Saturday, September 19. 10am to 2pm.
- MMOCC caravan from the North Jefferson City Commuter Lot departing at 9am.

#### **M. Ozark Ham and Turkey Festival.**

- Downtown California, Missouri.
- Saturday, September 19. 9-4.
- MMOCC caravan from the Farmers Bank of Lohman in St. Martins departing at 8:30am.
- “Cars and More” Show (Cars, Tractors, etc.) and small-town Parade (optional).



**N. Fall Car Classic.**

- Sunday, September 20 from 9am to 4pm.
- Taos Country Side Park.
- Fundraiser for Independent Living Resource Center.

**O. September Meeting.**

- Thursday, September 24 at 6pm.
- Car Show Details.
- Location to be determined. Might be Stan Fast's back yard.

**P. Old Car Round Up and Show.**

- Saturday, September 26.
- In conjunction with JC Oktoberfest.

**Q. October Meeting.**

- Thursday, October 22 at 6pm.
- Car Show Recap.
- Location to be determined.

**R. Eugene PTO Car, Truck, and Bike Show.**

- Cole R-V High School in Eugene.
- Saturday, November ??, \_\_\_\_ 9am to 2pm. Registration ends 11am.
- \$15 pre-registration. \$20 day of.

**S. ETET (Eddie Tremain Ethanol Tour).**

- Wednesday, November 11, 2020 (Veteran's Day). (Sorry, they do not do weekend tours.)
- Tour of POET Biorefining (Ethanol Plant) at 809 North Pine in Laddonia, Missouri.  
<https://poet.com/>
- Depart North Jefferson City Commuter Lot at 8:15am, arriving in Ladonna at 10ish for a 90 minute tour.
- Lunch at Hobo Bar and Grill at 106 Chestnut in Laddonia.
- Possible afternoon tour of Missouri Plant Science Center or Zenith Aircraft in Mexico, Missouri.

**T. NO November or December Meetings.**

- Attend the Holiday Party and New Year's Day Cruise, instead.

**U. MMOCC Holiday Party 2020.**

- Tuesday, December 1, 2020 at 6pm.
- American Legion / Tanner Bridge / JCMO.

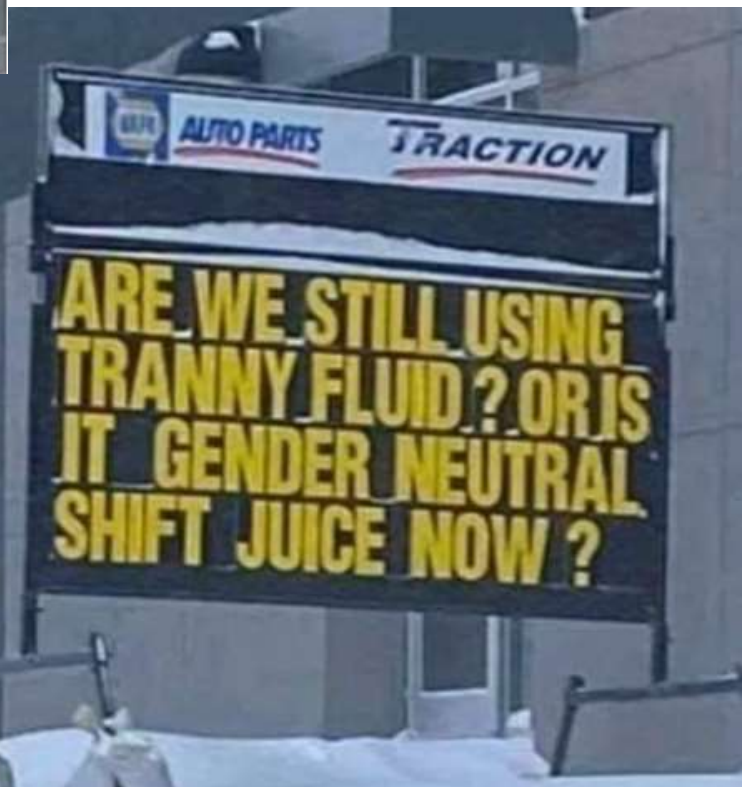
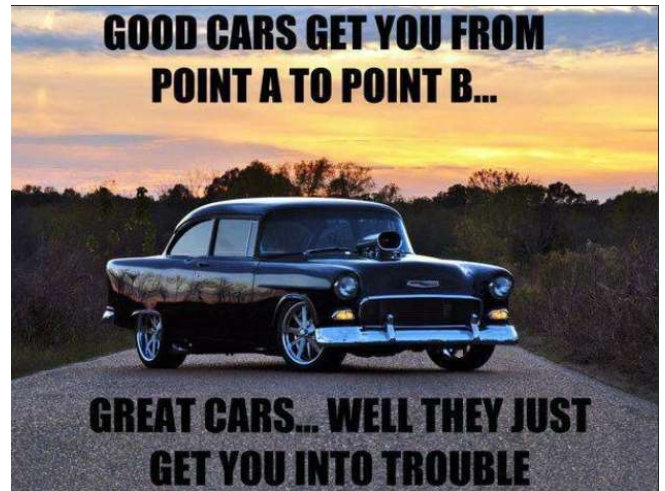
**V. 2021 New Year's Day Cruise.**

- Friday, January 1, 2021.
- Lunch and Garage Tours.
- Need YOUR GARAGE as a destination. Contact Dennis Smith.

**W. Kelsey Tire – Vintage Tire/Cars.**

- Date to be determined (postponed due to Coronavirus).
- Caravan leaving Schultes at 8:30am arriving about 9:30am
- 1190 East Highway 54 / Camdenton.
- Tour until about noon with lunch options.







**Officers:**

- President Lyle Rosburg
- Vice President Dennis Smith
- Secretary Vacant (it could be you!)
- Treasurer Tom Webb
- Historian Roger Hager
- Events Chair Ron Clark
- Car Show Chairs Tom and Karen Winters
- Immediate Past President Nathan Fuller

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