

The Radiator

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CORVALLIS HISTORIC AUTO CLUB

President's Notes

Given the few paragraphs allowed me here each month in The Radiator, I was remiss in telling you how appreciative I am that Denis Paquette agreed to serve as our Club's Secretary. Already wet from jumping into our pond feet first, Denis is actually the most central member of the new Board.

I'm not positive how he does it, but apparently he is keeping track of your new president.

Last month's column did not recognize his contribution to the club, and for that I regret, as what most actors find and regret when they begin their acceptance speech at the Oscars: that trap in where you start out naming names, you leave out an important name. Denis has outperformed my wildest expectations in just the first few months of



what has amounted to his baptism by fire. Thanks Den!

I am thrilled to announce that the Corvallis Historic Auto Club will debut a new website soon. Sebastian Heiduschke (who often drives that cool Trabant 601 to our Cars and Coffee events) has graciously offered his services as the Official Club Webmaster.

If you would like to have your car fea-

tured on the website, added to the "Members Cars" page, or contribute photos of our past events, please send them to our account:

CorvallisHistoricAutoClub@Gmail.Com

I will share our Sandbox/prototype address with club members very soon.

Thanks Sebastian!

Pete Rocco

“Tires of Tomorrow”



In 1960, Goodyear Tire Company introduced what they called the “Tires of Tomorrow”. William Larson, a chemist at Goodyear, worked together with Anthony Finelli to create a polyurethane compound called neothane, a material which allowed Goodyear to build a tubeless, cordless tire which could be dyed in a plethora of pigments.

But what really made the tire compound unique was the ability to allow light to pass through. Engineers fitted the tires with 18 light bulbs wired into the center of the wheel, creating an electroluminescent-like glow on the ground and in the car's wheel wells.

At this point, you're probably wondering what happened to the tires. If they were so cool and well-received, why didn't they appear on more vehicles? Aside from cost being the largest inhibitor (and ultimately what was responsible for killing the project), the tires weren't exactly practical. A few miles of road driving would render illumination useless, as road debris and wear would cover the synthetic tires in soot.



Then came the safety issues. The compound did not provide enough grip in rainy weather, nor did they hold up to hard braking due to the relatively low 250-degree pouring temperature of the compound. Flat spots would have become a large problem. So, in the name of function over form, the project did not come to fruition after ten years of development.



Member Profile



Denis Paquette is our new club secretary this year. Denis and his wife Kathi are somewhat new to Corvallis,

having moved from Concord, California in August of 2020. But they are certainly not new to car clubs. They were very involved in a couple of clubs in the bay area. Denis has two cars which are his passion. The first is a 1970 El Camino and the other is a 1963 Dodge Dart GT. The El Camino has gone through a long



and somewhat involved restoration and looks terrific. Denis has made some slight modifications, including the upholstery and the cowl induction hood. The car has great paint and stance.

The other car, a 1963 Dodge Dart GT, is still in the Bay Area receiving the finishing touches on its restoration. The Dart was Kathi's grandmother's car. Kathi's grandma bought it new



in 1963 and thankfully it's remained in the family ever since. Now under Kathi and Denis's stewardship it will also be there for their children to enjoy. They are hopeful the Dart's restoration will be finished and the car will be in Corvallis sometime this summer.

Denis is great to talk to. I told him I needed about a half hour to interview him for this article and three hours later I headed home!

We welcome Denis and Kathi to the club and thank Denis for stepping forward as our new club secretary.



Last Month's Question

Last month's question involved a tail fin from a 1950's car. I took a photo of these tail fins from Seth Jones' 1953 Plymouth Cranbrook. I was doing some double checking to make sure my info was correct, heaven forbid I make a mistake and call out the wrong year or model. I'd never hear the end of it.



While checking into the 1953 Cranbrook I didn't find any with these tailfins. I then checked the other years of production for the Cranbrook and the brochures for those years but still did not find any with tailfins. Seth knew the car had some 1954 parts, but he wasn't aware that the fins are actually from a '54 Plymouth Belvedere. The car looks great with the fins, Plymouth should have put them on the car from the factory. So the answer to last month's question is: *Plymouth Belvedere*, (even though this tailfin is on a Plymouth Cranbrook).

Our winner is Tom Sarpola, a new member. Great job Tom! That was a hard one. Thanks to all who participated.

Question of the Month

This is a tool used on cars, it is about 11 inches long and 4 inches wide. It also has a gauge attached to read measurements. Can you name it and explain what it does?



Be the first to email me and identify the tool and you will win a free coffee and donut at our first Corvallis Cars & Coffee event in June.

jknoke@comcast.net

Car on the Street

This is a large GMC box truck that I saw in Seaside, Oregon. I don't know how long it had been sitting there, but looking at this tire I'm guessing a little too long.



Auto Album



The Sunbeam Tiger was essentially an up-graded Sunbeam Alpine. With some minor changes to the firewall, Carroll Shelby was able to replace the 4-cyl. with a small displacement Ford V-8. The Tiger was fitted with a heavier-duty suspension to accommodate the added weight load of the engine. The Tiger also had rack and pinion steering that was standard. The price of the Tiger was \$1100, more than the Alpine but you were getting much more car. The Tiger was last available in the U.S. in 1967. The early prototype model was first named "Thunderbolt".

This Date in History

March 1, 1937 Connecticut issues the first "permanent" automobile license plate updated annually with colored inserts.

March 3, 1949 The Tucker Corporation is forced into receivership.

March 4, 1921 Warren G. Harding becomes the first President of the United States to ride to his inauguration in an automobile. The car was a Packard Twin Six.

March 5, 1875 The Wisconsin State Legislature offers a \$10,000 prize to any state resident who could produce *"A cheap and practical substitute for use of horses and other animals on the highway and farm"*.

March 6, 1896 Charles King tests his car in Detroit, MI, the first time that a motor car had been driven on the streets of the city.

March 16, 1988 Racer Mickey Thompson and his wife Trudy are murdered in Bradbury, CA.

March 24, 1908 Otto Zachow is issued a United States patent for the 4-wheel drive system.

March 28, 1900 The British Royal family receives its first motor car, a Daimler 6-hp Mail Phaeton.

March 29, 1948 The modern era of Formula 1 racing begins with the Grand Prix de Pau, in France.

CHAC Officers

President: Pete Rocco

Past president: Jim Knoke

Treasurer: Tim Jordan

Secretary: Denis Paquette

Board Member-at-Large: Marsha Raymond

Sunshine Team: DJ Freeman

Custodian-For-Life: Howard Jones

Newsletter Editors: Jim & Lin Knoke

Webmaster: Sebastian Heiduschke

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Coming Club Events

Club Meeting: Monday, March 28th at 7:00 pm
at Shepard of the Valley Church, corner of Highland and Walnut.

Sunday Morning Breakfast: April 3rd at 7:30 am
at Elmer's Restaurant in Corvallis. The club is
seated in a separate area in the restaurant and
all are welcome.

corvallishistoricautoclub@gmail.com

The Corvallis Historic Auto Club, a nonprofit organization, was organized over 57 YEARS AGO for the encouragement of interest in historical cars, their preservation and restoration, the extension of knowledge concerning them, and related activities.