

## "What's New in BIRD-LAND?"

Volume 1, Number 7

November 1958

### FROM THE BIRDWATCHER

by Don Brooks

IT HAPPENED IN MONTEREY . . . On the morning of November 8th the sun came up and so as not to allow Mr. Sun to become lonely a flock of Birds arose at the same time. If you think this wasn't a strain, you should have joined us on our Club tour to Monterey for the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance-Laguna Seca Road Races, Party Time and sundry things. Before I get ahead of myself, let's start at the beginning of the flight.

Leaving Oakland in the wee hours behind our leader, Ben Bueno, the man whose Bird is not allowed to exceed 35 miles per hour (end joke), I did almost 100 miles an hour just to stay in view. Coffee in Gilroy . . . and before Mr. Sun had cast his amber glow on the cerulean blue of Monterey Bay for an hour the flock came to roost at Del Monte Lodge, the locale of the West's famous Concours. Over 100 of the best-cared-for automobiles you ever saw were stretched on the rolling lawn with thousands of awed spectators milling about them. And who do you think won first place in his class? With only two vehicles entered, it wasn't difficult . . . for the price of a wash job any one of us could have won a dash plaque and third place. Big deal. Remember this event next year, friends, because Lew Edwards is going to win it (so he says). Our President's babied '57 actually copped the gonfalon, for which we extend congratulations. After this signal honor for the Club, we repaired to our motel so the ladies could don dresses for the evening's festivities. If you expect complete details about these you'll have to obtain them elsewhere. I become woozy just thinking about them.

Three and a half hours after the first race began at Laguna Seca Sunday morning, the Thunderbird Club made the main gate. The results of the races were in the daily papers, but beware of the bewitching Thunderette who at this very moment is haunting (pun intended) her husband to buy her a race car - Porsche, Scarab, MG - anything at all so long as it has a big gas pedal, a small brake and lots of GO.

### BIRD MIGRATIONS

#### Nov. 22 Thunderbird Scavenger Hunt

8:00 p.m. at Horsfall residence, 1939 Oakview Drive, Oakland. Participating Birds will be divided into groups and given a list of hard-to-find objects to test their resourcefulness. A bucket of fun for all! Art and Maxie will open their home for party time after the hunt for our big event of the month.

#### Nov. 24 Activities Committee Meeting

Plans for the coming year will be made at this time. 8:00 p.m. at the Penthouse, 2438 - 35th Avenue, Oakland. This meeting is of vital importance. Please attend, for out of the mud the lotus grows.

#### ec. 1 General Meeting

7:30 p.m. at Lake Merritt Boat House (across from Scottish Rite Temple) Oakland.

#### Dec. 12 Installation Dinner and Christmas Party

7:30 p.m. at Art's Buffet, 4031 Broadway, Oak. \$2.75 per Steak Dinner. Grab Bag Christmas gifts to all persons attending. Bring a fun gift, not exceeding \$1 in value. This night of fun will be our only event for the month of December. All are urged to attend. Please contact Don Brooks (KE 6-3616) for further info and make your reservations early. There's only room for members plus a few friends.

### WHAT'S NEW IN BIRDLAND

by Skip Riggs

Not much to cover this month with the exception of the recent Club elections held November 3rd. I assume most of you are aware that Don Brooks, 1958 Activities Chairman, was elected President for 1959. A very excellent choice for the job. Don is a hard worker and will do much to better the Club during the coming year. This is not intended to slight Owen Lewis, Don's opposition for the chair. Owen too, would have made a fine choice, as he has been a very active member during the 5 months with the Club and has shown the leadership qualities required to hold down the position in fine style.

In the Vice-President's spot, Richard Staples came out on top. This also is a good choice in my humble opinion. Dick has attended most of our events and meetings, and is known and liked by all.

Treasurer's chair went to Larry Farrell, the chap with the wide grin and reversed rims. Another hard worker, I know he'll do his best to guard the Club coffers during the coming year.

The two secretarial positions went to Edna (Mrs. Roger) Neiss and Mara Lee Houston, Recording and Corresponding Secretaries respectively. Who doesn't recall Edna . . . the pretty young lady with charming smile who is married to that old duffer, the Editor? She is always ready, willing and able to lend a helping hand in any and all Club activities. Mara Lee Houston, you will remember, is the young lady who has served as assistant to our Membership Chairman, Art Horsfall, during the past year. I feel Mara Lee will do the fine job in her new capacity that she did in Membership Committee.

As for myself, I regretfully declined nomination for a second term as President due to business pressures. I have become affiliated with Sports Car World magazine as Circulation Manager, in addition to my regular employment with U.S. Steel Corp., so you see, I shall have my work cut out for me during the coming months.

May I say in closing that it has been a pleasure to serve as your President during the first year of our being and I am delighted to have made the many fine friends I have. Mid and I both look forward to participating in the Club's forthcoming events and to seeing each and every one of you during the coming year.

### INTRODUCING . . . IN THIS CORNER . . . THE CARROLL GIRLS!



Our November choice of a back-seat occupying member to bring forth into the limelight is a lovely lady - Doris Carroll. Perhaps we should make this plural, as Doris is almost never seen without cute Bennie, her daughter.

You'll probably recognize Doris in the picture below, even if you didn't know her by name before. She certainly qualifies for this column by being properly shy and retiring. Eliciting facts from her for our purpose was like trying to collect Republican campaign funds from a Democrat.

In typically feminine manner she acknowledges birth (in Yates, Montana), but won't say when. She moved to Long Beach at age 14, attending college in Santa Barbara, a fact that makes her a native Californian in our book (which is 'What's New in Birdland' - you should know that). Incredible as it may seem, daughter Bennie is already in college, and we hesitate to add this for fear you will accuse your Editor of gross mis-handling of the facts, but Doris is also mother to two full-grown boys and is a grandmother! Marlene Dietrich, make some room on that pedestal.



Bennie was born in Lemoore, California 20 years ago and plans to become a teacher some day. She majors in physical education.

But this column is dedicated to Carroll Senior. Presently a Juvenile Court Clerk in Contra Costa County, she supervises the stenographic pool in the Probation Department in Richmond. The Carrolls have resided in that township since 1940. Incidentally, you lucky bachelors, she is free, white, and old enough to vote.

How did they acquire their Thunderbird? It seems Doris' son owned it originally and asked his mom to sell it for him when Uncle Sam called him into the service. They started driving it and were goners. They decided they had to keep the Bird, and disposed of the family car instead.

That great recruiter, Skip Riggs, was responsible for her joining the Club. He ran a notice in the Richmond Independent that a T-Bird Club was being formed. Doris read that notice, and was shortly a member in good standing.

## MEMO FROM MEMBERSHIP

by Mara Lee Houston

**PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS** - Don't forget to pick up your Guest Card and complete one of our applications for membership. It will be your responsibility to have this card signed by one of the Board of Directors at the three consecutive events you come to, such as a business meeting and two activities following said meeting, or a business meeting, an event, and the next business meeting, provided there aren't two Club events prior to the second meeting. When you return signed guest card we will advise you when and where to meet the Membership and Technical Committee for car inspection.

**CLUB PENNANTS** - Those of you who haven't bought your Club pennants as yet should contact me (Mara Lee - LO 2-4447) and I will see that you get either a black or a white one, as you prefer, for the low price of \$2 (which includes station).

**AMENDMENT PASSED** - It was voted upon and agreed that we amend our Constitution and By-Laws to read as follows: *'We resolve to amend Article III, Section 1, line A and Article III, Section 2m, Par. (a) to read: Any person who is the registered owner of a 2-passenger Ford Thunderbird automobile may become an Active Member of this Club and be entitled to all of its privileges upon his or her payment of the stated initiation fee and is entitled to continuing membership upon the payment of dues and assessments hereinafter, and upon complying and qualifying under the requirements stated herein.'*

This, of course, means we would debar 1958 and any four-passenger Thunderbirds built in the future.

## THUNDERBIRDS LEAD THE WAY

Parades have certainly been the order of the day for BATO in recent months and we cannot help but wonder if Thunderbird Clubs throughout the country are appealed to in the same degree by civic groups and parade planners. Certainly, if Thunderbirds have no other advantage, they are unexcelled in the function of parading dignitaries and beautiful damsels before an admiring populace.

One of the outstanding parades held in the East Bay recently was sponsored by the El Cerrito Chamber of Commerce and commemorated the opening of their new Shopping Center.

The Tyred Wheel Motor Car Club was extended the honor of furnishing transportation for the official queen, her attendants, queen-contest participants, and a number of official dignitaries.

The sport car contingent proved the outstanding section of the parade. Bill Irwin in his 1957 T-Bird lead the column with the lovely queen, Donna Jacobson, waving graciously to the thronging spectators. In the second car, George Nelson's '56 Thunderbird, was Miss Nancy Miller, the queen's attendant. Completing the procession of royal grandeur was George Rudy and his immaculate '55 undertaking the arduous task of transporting Miss Kay Beeson, the queen's second attendant.

The nine runners-up to the queen followed in other sports cars. All agreed that "it was fun while it lasted," and "it's nice work if you can get it." It seems appropriate to add one more cliché, "All good things must come to an end."  
-G.R.

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Car sickness is a sinking feeling in the pit of the stomach when payments are due.

## CLASSIFIED

WANTED . . . Five Chrome Wire Wheels for 15-in. Tires. With or Without Knock-Off Hubs. Contact Don Brooks, KEllogg 6-3616.

SPECIAL COMPETITION INSURANCE - Covers you and your car in Gymkhanas, Rallies, etc. Call Wendell H. Matthews, Workers' Insurance Service Exchange, TWinooks 3-4567.

25% Discount on CHROME PLATING to all Club members. Johnson Plating Works, 2526 Telegraph Avenue, Oakland.

FOR SALE . . . 4 Wire Wheel Hub Caps, 15-in. Contact Don Brooks, KEllogg 6-3616.

WANTED - Dead or Alive - New members for the Bay Area Thunderbird Owners' Club.

FOR SALE - BLACK SOFT TOP, Perfect. Call Art Horsfall, ANdover 1-8095.

15% Discount on All Parts - GENE LOCKHART MUFFLERS, 3019 E. 14th Street, Oakland. Telephone KEllogg 2-7736. (This location only)

FOR SALE - T-Bird Fender Skirts. Call George Rudy, BErkeley 2-5840.

20% Discount to Club Members on TOPS, CARPETS, TONNEAU COVERS. Satisfaction guaranteed. Kwik Covers, 3530 Broadway, Oakland. Telephone Olymptic 3-0636.

WANTED - One Garwood 15-inch Wire Wheel Hubcap. Call Jim or Joan Prichard, BErkeley 4-1425.

SALE or TRADE - T-Bird Fender Skirts. Skip Riggs, MIlberry 5-1580.

FOR SALE - '55, '56 & '57 Thunderbirds - All in nice condition. See Art Horsfall at Chirimele Ford or call ANdover 1-8095.

## DON AND DONNA HOST HALLOWE'EN PARTY



A "ball" was had at the Brooks manse on October 31st - a Hallowe'en Ball, to be exact. Refreshments were poured generously by Host Don, while Donna flitted from guest to guest making herself beautiful, something that comes easy for her. A goodly number of T-Birders mingled freely with Brooksonian tenants who dropped in to see what all the splashing was about. Most of the latter were from other parties and appropriately garbed for the occasion, and we will not soon rid our nightmares of one lady whose charms would doubtless go unchallenged 364 days of the year. Caparisoned as a gruesome witch, her chief pleasure was frightening dinner out of all the males present. Your Editor, who doesn't require a fright mask in order to gain entry to costume parties himself, did not have a cardiac condition before the Brooks' affair. Arriving late and approaching this vision from the calipygian angle, we were as usual attracted by the flowing hair, etc., and formulating plans to lure this goddess to the divan when she turned around!

Well, thanks to the Brooks for a splendid party otherwise. We know everyone had a wonderful time, altho this guest wasn't able to eat solid food for 48 hours.

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## Happy Valley



Activities Chairman Don Brooks presents the First Place Trophy to Ray Mellon and Bob Martell in festivities at Happy Valley Inn following

our First Annual Happy Valley Rallye last month. The winners were driving a Renault.

IT'S FOR THE BIRDS

by Ye Editor

The Club's thanks to the following organizations for trying to make our recent Happy Valley Rally a success: Keene-Reese Supply Co., Dick Yates Service, British Motor Cars, Cirimele Ford, Pland's, Norm Robbin Chevron, Rhett-White Ford, Bob's Mobil Service, Happy Valley Inn, Bob Ferrell's Flying A, Oscar's, and Dr. Frank Ficker. If we've overlooked anyone, we're sorry. October 26th is such a long way from San Francisco.

We're real pleased to be able to report at long last that Mary Lou Pratt, pulchritudinous feminine minion of the law, is finally on the way to recovery. After eight critical days in Herrick Hospital during which she had a close brush with the Grim Reaper, she was well enough to come home, but it will be some time before we see her at a Club affair, we fear. We suggest you send her lots of get-well wishes in the meantime.

At the November 3rd business meeting our quiet Treasurer, Dick Nagle, must have had his dander up. For the first time we were able to hear his financial report. It wasn't good. To the surprise of each of us, the Club is operating in the red. Not a very attractive lure to the several new prospects who were in attendance.

It was a pleasure to have George Rudy's personable wife, Eleanor, present at a couple of recent Club doings. We were beginning to think George was really a bachelor hiding behind the skirts of a mythical wife . . . Did you hear about the cannibal who got fed up with people? . . . This reporter believes the recent election will unite the Club more solidly. Don ("Togetherness") Brooks, 1959 President-elect, has several interesting innovations to present at the next business meeting. . . . Art Horsfall, a rarity among men, considerate, thoughtful. He always remembers to say something nice at the appropriate time. Following Don Brooks' election as President, Art called for a hand for defeated candidate Owen Lewis, who, incidentally, didn't want to run in the first place, and had only done so because of a request by Membership. A pair of fine gentlemen, those . . . Pity poor Pedro, the poverty-stricken peon, so poor he didn't have a patio to pace in . . . Skip and Mid (Way) Riggs returned from Pebble Beach with another first place trophy for their living room. Having acquired others since our last publication, their home must bear a striking resemblance to Melrose Jewelers, who sell them. We have had bad dreams of the Riggian furniture being shoved out into the yard to make room for their valued collection of cups and chalices. In one dream we had recently, Don Brooks was auctioning Riggs trophies back to the wholesalers, with Skip making change and Mid wrapping the merchandise. In another chimeric dream we had Club members sitting in a large room with assorted tools adapting trophy cups to utilitarian purposes. Some were sawing off bases to use as saucers. Others were making furniture legs of the stems. One fellow was sawing the sides away from four monstrous goblets and fitting them with cushions in the bottoms to serve as chairs. In this phantasy, an elderly mustachued member was removing stems from assorted goblets and joining the cups in pairs by means of elastic bands. After adding shoulder straps he'd label them A, B, and C Cup. Shades of the Nibelungenlied! We trust this paragraph will not have been in vain in the event the Rigg trophy situation ever gets completely out of hand.

We certainly appreciated the many favorable comments tendered by all of you following our first "revised edition" of "Birdland" in October. Particularly in view of the fact that some dozen assorted errors got by our eagle eye. Errors are the bugaboo of printers, and we shall strive to be more alert in catching them . . . Mid (Dy) Riggs' lovely flower garden has been attracting consid-

erable attention of late. She spends most of her spare time in the yard, and her large collection of beautiful pants which are visible to passing motorists has caused a number of them to stop for a closer inspection. She takes great pride in the number of varieties in her collection and is never too busy to show them off to those interested in nature . . . What's happened to Ken Jacuzzi? He's missed a couple of Club events, and we, in turn, have missed him . . . How about our bachelor fellers never bringing any girl friends to our doin's for the married guys to ogle? Are they so frightful they had best be kept in a dark room? We are reminded we were going to bring a gal for Hard-Top Andy Larsen once - until we found out she didn't like Danes or Swedes, although we hear on good authority she did anything for a Finn.

Letters

Dear Editor:

I read your last paper and I must say if it don't get no better I'm going to quit borrowing it to read.

All you do is write about them pretty girls you're supposed to have in your Club. I never seen a good lookin' gal yet with a greasy face, and I been around for 79½ years. I'm a handsome wolf if I do say so myself (and I must say so myself because everybody else says I'm more of a dog than a wolf). So put up or shut up.

(Sd) Eager Lips

Dear Eager Lips:

I don't know what school you went to but I certainly don't recommend it. In answer to your problem, don't you realize after 79½ years that there's something beautiful about every woman, and if she owns a Thunderbird, 'nuff said. It only took us 59½ years to learn that.

- Ed

Dear Editor:

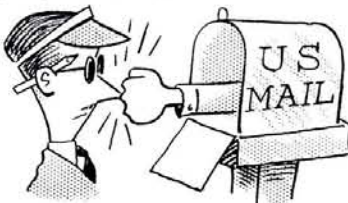
How about them sesquipedalian words! Last month your bulletin sent me to the dictionary so often I missed most of Howdy Dowdy. I wish you'd keep it more simple hereafter because, frankly, it wasn't worth the trouble of looking up the words anyway.

(Sd) Savant

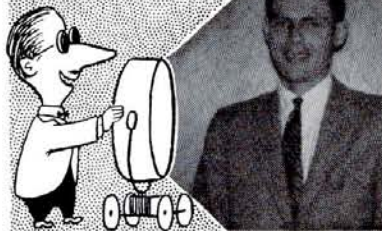
Dear Savant:

We used big words last time, Savant, to impress our 15½-year-old son who thinks his father never amounted to much. Following release of the October "Birdland" he has become aware of the existence of polysyllabic words to such an extent that he is looking up his own in the dictionary trying to trip up the old man - and if I may say so, I suggest the same to you. Howdy Doody, indeed!

After scanning our lad's latest report card, we are mindful to insert algebraic problems in these pages. We'll do it too, if the grades don't get any better and soon!



BIRDLAND'S SPOTLIGHT IS ON . . .



DAIL LEE MOFFETT

This Club is surely blessed with more working members than any automobile group has a right to expect. When it wasn't an Andy Larsen or a Bob Perry, it's been Larry Farrell or Don Brooks who has been working incredibly hard in behalf of the BATOC. And we know there are many others who will do just as well when they are called upon.

In recent weeks it's been Dail Moffett, our chairman of parades, who has been working his little noggin off and wearing his dialing finger to the bone to help publicize the Thunderbird Club. You've all been phoned by Dail in the past regarding parade duty and must appreciate the astronomical heights his phone bill reached in connection with his job.

In November of 1934 when Dail was born, this scene-stealer was announcing his engagement to the little butterball who becomes your recording secretary next year. That seems an awfully long time ago. Pasadena, California was the site - of Dail's birth, that is, and he insists his childhood was anything but exciting. Most of his life has been spent in pursuit of an education . . . high school in Cheno . . . two years at Mt. San Anselmo Junior College . . . and finally 1½ years at the University of California in Berkeley. However, the spectre of starvation reared its ugly head and Dail was forced to suspend college, at least temporarily. Having acquired a liking for the Bay Area and its people, Dail decided to remain in Berkeley. He works for the P.G. & E. as an IBM machine operator and appears well along the way toward owning the company when he's as old as you are.

Hobbies? Dail has a parcel. He likes to write and paint (a definite threat to Ye Editor). Likes records and especially Hi-Fi which he concedes he cannot afford. He's an avid follower of sports cars - all kinds - and has been known to trade off his Thunderbird for a Triumph or an MG for a day or even a weekend. Then, there's this girl named Pat . . .

Who knows? He may never go back to school.

'What's New in Birdland' is published monthly by the Bay Area Thunderbird Owners Club. All inquiries should be addressed to ROGER NEISS, Editor, 45 Ecker Street, San Francisco 5, Calif.

**1958 OFFICERS**

SKIP RIGGS	President
ART HORSFALL	Vice-President
DICK NAGLE	Treasurer
MID RIGGS	Recording Secretary
FAYE EDWARDS	Corresponding Secretary
MARA LEE HOUSTON	Membership
BERT BROWN	Technical
DON BROOKS	Activities
DR. FRANK FICKER	Publicity
DAIL MOFFETT	Parades
JACK TAYLOR	Ways & Means
OWEN LEWIS, DR. FICKER	Photography
LEW EDWARDS	Censor

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE: George Rudy, Dail Moffett, Skip Riggs, Don Brooks, Mara Lee Houston, Dr. Frank Ficker, Owen Lewis and Doris Carroll.

## A SYMBOL OF SERVICE

With a 'Hats off!' gesture of gratitude to the Bay Area Thunderbird Owners Club, the American Legion, with the cooperation of the City of Albany, has presented our organization with its first service award.

Although to some, the award may seem unimpressive, it serves as a token of recognition to those Bird owners who have given of their personal time (and gasoline) in the interest of civic and club affairs. Without a doubt, the club's participation in parades has brought it widespread, favorable publicity.

The Albany award is the first presentation which the club has received in the line of civic assistance; it won't be our last!

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## SPORTS CARS AND THE UNITED CRUSADE

(A report on what the Richmond contingent of the Bay Area Thunderbird Owners Club has been doing to improve relations with sports car owners.)

Sports cars provided the motif for the final United Crusade Report Luncheon of Contra Costa County held at the Richmond Youth Center on October 30.

The luncheon tables were decorated with miniature sports cars depicting the various types of sports car events - concourses, gymkhanas, races, rallies, tours, and the like. The speaker's table was decorated with various pieces of racing gear.

To provide the necessary color, Tyred Wheel Motor Car Club members proffered their cherished machines. Don Hampton's A.H. Sprite commanded the stage in front of the speaker's table, and Bob Moore's TR-3 arrested the eyes of those who passed through the lobby.

On the lawn adjacent to the Youth Center entrance the following cars were displayed in the manner of a Concourse d'Elegance:

The Scoggins Jaguar  
The Rudy Thunderbird  
The Bryant Austin-Healey  
The Lawson Jaguar  
The Kine MG-TF

Officials of the United Crusade were extremely pleased by the atmosphere created by use of the sports car motif, and it should be noted, that the sports car movement generally benefitted by Tyred Wheel's efforts.

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## HAPPY VALLEY JACK TAYLOR

Ever wonder why we don't see more of Jack Taylor at our Club affairs? We did - until we ran across a clipping from an Oakland paper which featured the Jack Taylor Quartet. It reminded us that Jack works evenings, when we usually schedule our functions, and is therefore not able to attend. This past Sunday Jack and the Quartet staged a public rehearsal to demonstrate something new in jazz development to the Bay Area and perhaps the United States as well.

A few weeks ago the director of the New York Philharmonic Orchestra inaugurated sessions which were in effect dress rehearsals of forthcoming concerts. Now Jack is introducing the same technique into jazz in the realization that there are listeners who are interested in learning something of the structure and interpretation of musical selections.

Jack got into music 14 years ago when he was drummer with the band of Marty Paich. Subsequently he switched to vibes, obtained his B.A. at USC, and played jobs with Joe Albany, Teddy Edwards, Helen Humes and Miles Davis. For the past several years he has been teaching and performing in Oakland and environs.

## Technical Tips

Are you continually running into technical problems involving the upkeep of your Bird? If your answer is "no", then you're in the minority, Bud, and you can trundle off to bed here. But for the others, why not send your question in to Bert Brown, our Technical Chairman, or to the Editor, who will gladly forward it to him for you? The answer will be printed in detail on this page next month. Conversely, if you've discovered a "trick" or gimmick which worked for you and you feel would be helpful to others, why not share it? Send it in. This column could well become the most useful section of our paper. It's up to YOU!

Here are a few random suggestions to get the ball rolling:

## UPHOLSTERY STITCHING

Is the stitching of your upholstery beginning to rip? You can slow it down and prolong its life by rubbing beeswax into the seams. At some future time, perhaps we can give details as to the removal of the seat so as to restitch the ripped areas. It isn't as difficult as you might believe.

## HOW MUCH AIR?

A rule of thumb for checking tire pressure when you don't have a tire gauge is this: When

your car is parked on a flat area, the flat surface of a properly-inflated tire will be the same as the tire size. For a 6:70 x 14 tire, the flat area will measure 6.7 inches in length.

## REAR VIEW MIRROR

Some owners may not be aware of the fact that the rear view mirror is attached to the ball stud support, not in the center, but  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch above (or below) the center. And so, if you don't like it where it is now, you can raise (or lower - depending on where it is now) the mirror  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches merely by rotating it on the ball stud half a turn.

## SQUEAKY SPRING

That Squeak in the rear may be your rear springs acting up because the pads are worn out; they're the little pads at the end of each leaf. It is relatively simple to replace them.

The next time you have your car greased - select a service station which uses the type of hoist which blocks up the frame of the car and allows the wheels to hang free.

Insert a long screw driver between the spring leaves with a little pressure, pull out the old pads and insert new ones. This will work for all except the bottom leaf, which doesn't get as much wear anyway.



## DAIL MOFFETT APPOINTED ASSOCIATE EDITOR

We have appointed Dail Moffett as an associate editor to assist us in the rather arduous job of putting out the monthly bulletin. It is only arduous in that it has to be done completely in one "sitting" so to speak, with most all of the contents being made available only after the monthly meeting. Those who feel they'd like to have their contributions "edited", or typed up, before forwarding same on to the editor, will be happy to have an East Bay representative so handy. Dail is a well-educated chap with fertile mind and nimble digits when attacking a typewriter keyboard. We're happy that he volunteered to help out.

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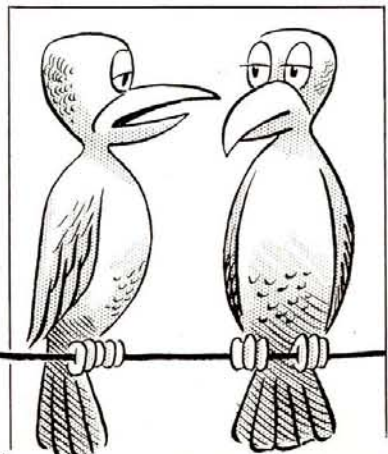
## THUNDERBIRDS POPULAR IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

It will come as no surprise that the highest concentration of Thunderbirds in any one place - short of the Lake Merritt Boathouse on first Mondays - is Beverly Hills, California where almost everyone except Jack Benny owns one. Is it any wonder that these screen personalities should drive America's most personable car?

Some of the Bird-owning stars are: June Allyson, Fred Astaire, William Bendix, Marlon Brando, Gower Champion, Alfred Hitchcock, Bill Holden, Alan Ladd, Fernando Lamas, Burt Lancaster, Jack Lemmon, Dean Martin, Ray Milland, Gene Nelson, Donna Reed, Frank Sinatra, Randolph Scott, Spencer Tracy, Robert Wagner, Jack Webb and Jane Wyman.



Ever wonder what a check point crew does while waiting for that first car to show up during a Rally? Dr. Frank Ficker thought you'd like to see how efficiently Handy Andy Larsen conducted his during the recent Happy Valley Rallye. However, he made us hide the checkers before he'd snap the shutter.



"I JUST MADE A DEPOSIT ON A NEW CORVETTE."

## "What's New in BIRD-LAND?"

Volume 1, Number 8

December 1958

### ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

- DEC. 12 – INSTALLATION DINNER – the only event scheduled for this month. The 1959 officers will be officially inaugurated at 8:00 p.m. There will also be a Christmas Party, so bring a small gift along, not over one dollar in value.
- JAN. 6 – GENERAL MEETING, 7:30 p.m. at Art's Buffet, 4031 Broadway, Oakland.
- JAN. 10 – SMORGASBORD, 7:30 p.m. at Lake Temescal Club House, Oakland. \$1.00 per person. Beer, coffee and Coca Cola to slake your thirst. Bring a guest to help enjoy this gala affair.
- JAN. 16 – RALLY SEMINAR, 8:00 p.m. at the Penthouse, 2438 – 35th Avenue, Oakland. Learn what you should know and do on a rally. Bob Perry, our Rallymaster, will give us all the dope needed to win a few trophies.
- JAN. 18 – ENIGMATIC TOUR, 8:00 a.m., Jack London Square. No one seems to know much about this tour, or where we will be going – but it promises to be different from any yet conducted. You'll be sorry if you miss this one.
- FEB. 2 – GENERAL MEETING, 7:30 p.m., Art's Buffet, 4031 Broadway, Oakland.
- FEB. 6 – FRIDAY NIGHT RALLY (Open). Three hours.

### ACTIVITIES REPORT

ANDY LARSEN

A Nazi helmet, back scratchers, a box of Ex-lax, a policeman's badge, and sundry items of that ilk might have gotten you a dash plaque in the Scavenger Hunt held November 22nd at Art and Maxine's home. We are indebted to the Volpattis for working out the details so well that everyone participating had a marvelous time. I hear tell that some members are still looking for a 500-watt light bulb, and the Oakland police are searching for the person or persons who were going around collecting garbage can lids. Wonder who that was? By the way the food disappeared it was evident that all those present worked up good appetites.

Congratulations to Owen and Lorraine Lewis for winning first place. Richard and Beverly Staples were next and Lou and Faye Edwards came in third. Even those who didn't win anything else ended up with an extra garbage can lid or so. Speaking for all of us, I'd like to thank the Horsfalls and Volpattis for a real BIG big time.

The Jack Taylor Quartet opened at the Serenader in November and are already the talk of the town. You jazz lovers will want to get down to the Serenader at the north end of Lake Merritt just off Grand Avenue to listen to this fine jazz group.

The December Activities meeting held some surprises for quite a few members, yours truly included. The 1959 President and members present thought that Lars, alias Wolf, alias Hardtop, alias Andy Larsen should be Activities Chairman for the coming year. I accepted just before I went down for the third time. Wish that darned pool weren't so handy.

As my assistants I have Rich Volpatti and Joe White. Other appointees were:

Bob Perry, Rallymaster	Dr. Frank Ficker, Trophy Awards
Russ Pratt, Social Director	Joe Koonce, Sports Director
Dail Moffett, Tour Director	

**IMPORTANT REMINDER** – The snow trip tour will be held the last of February and you will want to be sure to keep this period open. Remember, February 28 and March 1 are snow days.

### FOR THE BIRDS

THE EDITOR

A big hand goes out to all the 1958 officers whose names grace the "Birdland" box for the last time with this, the December issue. The five elected officers, Skip Riggs, Art Horsfall, Dick Nagle, Mid Riggs and Faye Edwards, along with their appointed committee members, certainly did yeoman service in building our Club to its present state in one abbreviated year. Congratulations on a job very well done!

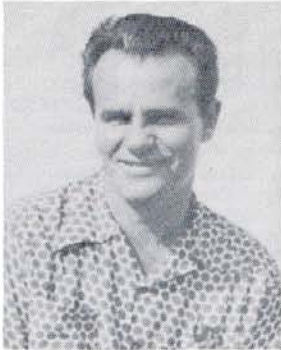
The Activities Committee turned in an exceptional performance in our opinion. With Chairman Brooks cracking the whip at his two fine lieutenants, Larry Farrell and 'Lief Larsen, we were afforded many fascinating amusements. Month after month they came up with intriguing tours and other events to keep our interest from lagging. Unhappily, a large segment of the membership did not avail themselves of these stimulating diversions. It is ever an enigma

to us why the regular monthly meetings consistently lure 75-80% of the membership from their homes, whereas the much more interesting events draw about 30% participation. It must have been terribly discouraging to these hard workers. All of the members should try to attend these scheduled Club functions, if only to show appreciation for the hard work the Activities people put out for you. Let's show the new group that we are grateful for all of the time, labor and gasoline that they will expend in providing entertainment for us in 1959. They deserve a better fate than the '58 group received.

But it could have been worse. Only three Birds went to Disneyland when we tried our hand at promoting a tour.

The same vote of appreciation is accorded to the other committeemen who performed their tasks in the best possible manner. We trust they will always be ready to help out the new men if they are ever needed.

## Introducing in this CORNER ... BEN BUENO



Our tale begins . . .

Ben Bueno was born in Hollister, California, on December 29, 1921. Fortunately, Ben favors Thunderbirds over motorcycles; else he might be rather unpopular with the citizenry of his home town.

Even as a youngster, Ben carried unlimited enthusiasm in his heart for parades. Gathering the neighborhood children together, he would take position as leader and navigate the miniature militia

through Hollister. Most likely, this is the reason for Ben's eager assent when asked to participate in parades which the Club has been solicited to enter.

After several address changes between Hollister and Oakland, the Bueno family established residence in San Leandro during 1937.

In 1940, Clo appeared in Ben's life. A native resident of Oakland, Clo was working at the Fruitvale Canning Co., and luckily for both, Ben was employed by the same concern. The friendship grew and two years later, the Buenos took their marriage vows in the City of Alameda.

For the past ten years, Ben has been employed in the produce warehouse of Safeway Stores, where he works an alternatine shift of one month on days and one month on nights. Clo does her share to supplement the family emoluments by assuming general office duty two days a week at Hogan Wholesale Building Materials.

Hobbies? Sure! Caring for the Bueno duplex commands part of Ben's spare time. Of course, it goes without saying that the Bird must be kept in concourse shape! Ben likes music too - Frank Sinatra and big-name bands preferably. It might also be mentioned that a yearly excursion to Las Vegas is a "must" on the Bueno agenda. But Ben, the *Reno Rally*?

The Buenos came into the Thunderbird fold via an invitation from Lew and Faye Edwards, neighbor-tenants of the duplex. The only regret that Ben and Clo have expressed since joining us is, "We wish we were able to attend even more of the Club activities."

- D. M.



## THINGS ARE FINE FOR '59

As all of you members sit in our General Meetings next year opportunities for a better Club will be at hand. For behind the rostrum at which your elected Executive Board is sitting will be a nice roaring fireplace, including fire. Those who are not paying attention . . . plo! If your President gets out of hand . . . plo! A better Club for all who can survive!

In an effort to bring to our Club an interesting meeting it has been decided that a change of pace is needed. Thus the plan was evolved to switch meeting place and date occasionally. So, for the next three months only - January, February and March - our General Meetings will be held at . . .

ART'S BUFFET, 4031 Broadway, Oakland

. . . in the intimate Fireside Room off the Cocktail Lounge (per A.A.A. coffee available). We of the Board hope this meets with your approval. If not . . . plo! Those of you who attend the Installation Dinner/Christmas Party will have the advantage of a sneak preview, for this is the Fireside Room we are reserving. Did I say *'those of you who will attend'*? Naturally ALL will attend or . . . plo!

At the present, Monday is felt by some to be too close to the weekend and people are generally tired. If other people are tired, so must us Thunderbirds be. So . . . effective immediately, meeting time will be . . .

8:00 P.M. - FIRST TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH

Remember, this is for three months only. After that, place, time and date may be changed to please the majority. This change occurred because somebody spoke up. Let's hear from youse.

For the fight fans in the Club, the monthly Board Meeting will be held on the same night - same place - only it'll be a dinner meeting at 6:00 p.m. Sixteen-ounce gloves are mandatory.

- D. B.



Now we've seen everything! For the latest in Sports Car paraphernalia . . . the newest . . . the craziest car cap ever, take a good look at the picture above. See the built-in tail-light? It actually works - by plugging an inconspicuous wire into the cigarette lighter of your dashboard. It can be a stop-light too, high enough up so those BIG Detroit monsters can see it and keep from climbing on your rear bumper. Ideal Christmas gifts for boys and gals. Available from Cole Industries, P.O. Box 2611, San Francisco 26. The cost? \$7.95 postpaid. Add 50¢ if you wish both tail-light and stop-light features.

Our only excuse for printing the picture at the left is to show you what a 1956 Thunderbird looks like. After all, a '56 is three years old, and some of you may have forgotten its styling due to the passage of time. Incidental to the car are George Nader and Kathy Marlowe of the Ellery Queen show. The latter, by the way, shows you capri- and parka-wearing gals what the Southern California femmes are wearing in their T-Birds these days.

# POTPOURRI . . .

We were all pleasantly surprised to see Mary Lou Pratt at the December meeting after a prolonged illness involving a 22-day sojourn in the hospital. She'll be convalescing a few weeks yet, but welcomes visits from Club members at her home . . . Andrew H. Larsen, newly-appointed Activities Chairman, is lonesome for Nordic companionship. So his first event is a Smorgasbord, as reported in the Activities Calendar on the first page, designed to make Swedes of all of us (his joke). We expect to replenish the coffers because the food will be donated, and everything but the renting of the Temescal Clubhouse will be free. Food will cost \$1 per person, (pure profit) and beer and soft drinks will be available at nominal charge. If Dick Nagle comes, this sideline will show a profit also. Incidentally, all owners of '55, '56 and '57 Thunderbirds are invited to come, whether members of the BATOC or not . . . The two-day stay in the snow country scheduled for Feb. 28 and March 1 is being offered members at the ridiculously low price of \$1 per day per person, excluding food, of course. Offsetting this is the peculiar sleeping arrangements at the Lodge, not destined for lasting popularity - boys must sleep with boys, dormitory style, and girls with girls. Even those who have been married for 23 and 11/12ths years. Tsk, tsk. . . Winsome Donna Brooks hastens to deny Don's charge that she collects old, wornout articles, except him, of course. She brands the lie to the charge that articles left at their home for our Rummage Sale run the risk of being appropriated by her . . . Welcome to new member, Bob Groden of 24 Du-boce, San Francisco, who became our 42nd member after success-

fully passing our entrance requirements. We're happy to have his winning smile become a permanent fixture. Better add his name and address to your list of members. Phone number is PRespect 5-0145 . . . Admittedly, we know little about the ladies' hair styles. Nonetheless we dare to compliment Rich Staples, hair stylist, on the stunning effect of Beverly's new coiffure. Very cute baby they have, by the way. Has the disposition of an angel. Some of us wish a little of it could brush off . . . Always give the pedestrian the right-of-way. He may be on the way to move his car from the parking space you're looking for . . . Rumor has it that another T-Bird Club is making its bow in the Bay Area - The Contra Costa Thunderbird Association . . . Roy Shideler and wife Paula became parents on the last day of November, and promptly named the girl Valerie. Congratulations . . . "Frequent naps, such as when driving a car, keep you from getting old" - Dottie Farrell . . . Skip and Mid (Day) Riggs have moved away from their "Birdnest" home on Colton Blvd. - to Contra Costa somewhere. Any connection with that rumor above, Skip? . . . Art and Maxine Horsfall have sold their mansion, the Falcon's Lair, and there goes another of our birds' favorite roosting hangouts. This leaves only the Brooks' Penthouse and your Editor's Bat Nest as available aviaries for informal Bird assemblages. Art and Maxine plan a two months' tour of Europe sans Bird. Postcards from Paris are a definite promise. Our best wishes for a nice vacation to the Horsfalls. During one shopping tour last Christmas when Edna squeezed a doll it cried "Mama." But later on when I squeezed another doll it screamed, "Floorwalker!" How come? . . . That's about it for this month. See you all at the Installation Dinner Friday.

'What's New in Birdland' is published monthly by the Bay Area Thunderbird Owners Club. All inquiries should be addressed to ROGER NEISS, Editor, 45 Ecker Street, San Francisco 5, Calif.

### 1958 OFFICERS

SKIP RIGGS	President
ART HORSFALL	Vice-President
DICK NAGLE	Treasurer
MID RIGGS	Recording Secretary
FAYE EDWARDS	Corresponding Secretary
MARA LEE HOUSTON	Membership
BERT BROWN	Technical
DON BROOKS	Activities
DR. FRANK FICKER	Publicity
DAIL MOFFETT	Parades
JACK TAYLOR	Ways & Means
OWEN LEWIS, DR. FICKER	Photography
LEW EDWARDS	Censor

## Rummage Sale

Fed up with having to listen to financial problems at every turn, Dick Staples has suggested a Rummage Sale to rid the Club of its monetary miseries once and for all. His own experience in conducting rummage sales and skill in polemics sold everyone present at the December meeting on the idea. The big event isn't actually set as yet, pending accumulation of odds and ends to put up for sale, but this is a reminder to all of you to throw away nothing that might possibly be wanted by somebody. And it would surprise you to learn how useless an article has to be before nobody would want it. Dick has of-

ferred to store this material temporarily, and suggests that every member fill his T-Bird with donations before attending any Club event in the coming weeks. Suggested are: discarded clothing, old books, magazines, broken toys, games, car parts, old dishes, jars, etc. Bert Brown will be happy to come to your home with his pick-up truck for loads too large to transport in your Bird. Simply phone him at LO 2-3250 between the hours of 4 and 6 any evening. But be sure to make it a worthwhile load, even if you have to petition your neighbors for their rummage. Not a bad idea for the rest of us, either. Let's get a real big collection together and put this drive over in top style!



Nothing stopped this gang from going to Disneyland over Thanksgiving Day. When the going got too rough for Thunderbirds, the journey continued by ox-cart. A real good time was reported by all, as you can see by their grinning visages, B. P. (before poverty set in).

### CLASSIFIED ADS

Wanted - 5 Chrome Wire Wheels for 15-inch tires. With or without Knock-off Hubs. Don Brooks, KEllogg 6-3616.

'55 T-BIRD, Clean, Ford-o-matic. Call Art Horsfall, TWInoaks 3-4567.

25% Discount on CHROME PLATING to all Club members. Johnson Plating Works, 2526 Telegraph Avenue, Oakland.

Rear '56 T-Bird BUMPER, less brackets, perfect - \$25. '56 Std. Transmission and linkage - \$75. Stan Motyka, 2237 N. Monitor Avenue, Chicago 39, Illinois.

Girl needs job. Is willing to struggle if given opportunity.

15% Discount on All Parts - Gene Lockhart MUFFLERS. 3019 E. 14th Street, Oakland. Phone KEllogg 2-7736. (This location only.)

For Sale - SUPERCHARGER for T-Bird, with gauges - \$200 (Contact your Editor, as this seller is in the Los Angeles area.)

TOPS, CARPETS, TONNEAU COVERS, 25% Discount. Kwik Covers, 3530 Broadway, Oakland. Phone OLYmpic 3-0636.

Wanted - Clean '56 T-BIRD. Art Horsfall, TWInoaks 3-4567.

Wanted - Garwood 15-inch Wire Wheel Hub-Cap. Call Jim Prichard, BErkeley 4-1425.

For Sale - 4 Wire Wheel Hub Caps, 15-inch. Don Brooks, KEllogg 6-3616.

Sue was congratulating Lela on her driving ability. "Why, you're handling the car like a veteran."

"How do you know," countered Lela. "You've never seen me handle a veteran."



'Twas the evening preceding the 25th, When throughout the entire domicile there was not the slightest sign of activity.

Not even one small rodent was taking its nocturnal perambulations in search of provender.

The woolen coverings for the pedular extremities were arranged neatly on the mantel, With the expectancy that presently a benevolent old gentlemen with snowy white hirsutism

Would fill them to overflowing . . .

(What are you gentlemen in the white coats doing here?)

## And a Merry Christmas to All

# Letters

Dear Editor:

I bin readin yer last 2 papers and if I wuz you I'd lern how to spell big words before I used 'em. You mis-spelt 'sesquipedalian' last month. How do you expect us to understan words when you can't spell 'em rite?

(Sd) Eighth Grader

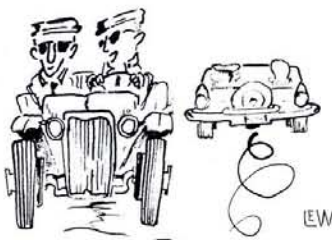
Dear Eighth Grader:

A very discerning reader you are, catching one of the two errors which crept into the November issue. However, this word was misspelled by the letter-writer, not us. We do not edit letters which appear in this column, fortunately for you. But may we commend your interest in orthography just the same? We have always loved semantics and blondes - in reverse order - not to forget brunettes and redheads in any order. To encourage your further interest in words we invite you and others who may be interested to try the following word test. Twelve words are shown. Throw out the two most difficult and then score ten points for yourself for every correct definition you can come up with on the remaining ten. A score of 50 or better is excellent. 30-40 is average. If you can't get two of them you're a prime candidate for the Corvette Club and you can turn in your Bird.

CAVILIER	PHILOGYN	CAPTIUS
ELEEMOSYNARY	ERGOPHOBIA	MISOGYNY
MEMORABILIA	POSTERN	GAUCHE
FLAUNT	PICAYUNE	PUDENT

Correct answers WILL NOT BE FOUND elsewhere in these pages. We want YOU to consult Webster and learn the various shades of meaning for yourself.

... and you had better! We're going to sprinkle them throughout the copy next month.



"By the way, what do you think of the segregation problem?"

Dear Editor:

Are you trying to save paper for World War 3 or are you subsidized by the Amalgamated Order of Optometrists? I never could see you as an editor and now I can't even see your type. The top line of an eye doctor's chart is like a Foster & Kleiser sign compared to the November bulletin. I haven't seen print that small since I bought stock in the Fly-By-Night Mining Company of Gossamer, Montana. My advice to you is cut down on your part of the paper and put in more of the good stuff (from the other members), or subsidize the thing yourself and add extra pages.

(Sd) Blind Tom  
(and many others)

Dear Blind Tom  
(and many others):

My advice to you is drop . . . Oh, well, have it your way. Starting with this issue the type will be a bit larger. But there'll be less "good stuff". Who's editor around here, anyway?

Dear Editor:

Your censor isn't doing a very good job. The stuff you put in the bulletin would make a marine sergeant blush.

(Sd) Prudence Pimplenose

Dear Prudence:

Why did you suppose we selected a censor who lives across the Bay?

## SPORTS CAR FASHION NOTES

The following article was sent in anonymously a few days ago, and fills a long-felt need - something for the girls. As you will note, it is exceedingly well-written. We'd like this member to make herself known to the Editor with the idea of supplying material for a similar article each month, whether she wishes to maintain her anonymity or otherwise.

MADAME DE L'AUTO . . . . . by Francoise\*  
\*(a shy BATOC member)

Those charming tie-on straw hats that were so very popular this summer are high style again this fall. They can be purchased in all the lovely fall shades of wool jersey at the Roos-Atkins stores.

Fur-trimmed Car Coats are the rage this fall and winter. A white coat trimmed with brown beaver or black lamb is the leading color combination. These coats can be purchased at most of the local department stores.

What to give HIM for Christmas? Why not the Long-Playing record, "Sports Cars in Hi-Fi", listing number RLP-5002. Another ideal gift for the sports-minded man is the jeweled tire pressure gauge. This item is available at the Auto Supply Stores and the novelty section of the Department Stores.

Merry Christmas Madame & Mssrs. de l'Auto.