

"What's New in BIRD-LAND?"

Volume 2, Number 1

January, 1959

ACTIVITIES REPORT

.....by ANDY LARSEN

The new regime of the BATOC was officially inaugurated at Art's Buffet on December 12th. Following a few cocktails and a steak dinner we were all party to a most sentimental affair. Outgoing President Skip Riggs introduced his 1958 officers one by one, giving each a vote of appreciation for his efforts, and then Skip himself received a trophy from President-elect Don Brooks as a token of our esteem for all of the blood, sweat and tears he had put into founding the Bay Area Thunderbird Owners' Club. Following the presentation of the gavel to Don Brooks, guest-speaker Don French of the Oakland Tribune took over, regaling all present and our editor especially (Don threw out some gags from "Birdland"). Following the dinner, Bennie Carroll and yours truly played the part of Santa Clauses and dispensed presents to the members. Much fun and frivolity were had by all, and we understand many members gravitated to other night spots and celebrated until daylight.

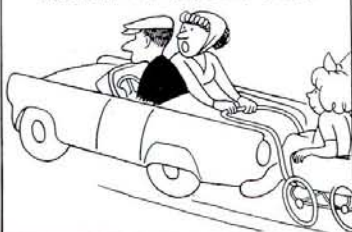
Rocking and rolling to the Frank Ficker Combo set the pace for the Brooks' New Year's Eve affair. Their penthouse will never be the same. Early in the evening Don reminded that it was then 12 o'clock in New York, and if he missed any borough over 25,000 population, I didn't know it. And after the new year had arrived in San Francisco, Don began to select islands in the Pacific. Our thanks to host and hostess for a very enjoyable evening. This time we understand no member had to be swept out with the cigarette butts the following morning.

More details on our ski tour scheduled for next month . . .

Leave Friday night, February 27 at 8:00 p.m. Each person to furnish own sleeping bag. Ski equipment can be rented at most sporting goods stores in the Bay Area. Jim Ellis Sports Shop, 5773 Foothill Blvd., is quite reasonable.

Hog jowls, sowbelly and chitlins will be imported for the occasion. The cook was deported for non-payment of dues, so K-P rations will be the order of the day. The cost? \$1.50 per person a night for the lodge and about 50¢ per meal for fodder. Custodian of the lodge will bring the food supply.

"ISN'T IT ABOUT TIME WE BOUGHT A BIGGER CAR?"



ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

- JAN. 25 - JACK TAYLOR'S "WEDDING OF THE ARTS", Happy Valley Inn, Lafayette. Times: 2 to 6 and 7:30 to 11.
- JAN. 27 - Activities/Membership Committee meeting, 7:30 p.m., The Penthouse, 2438 - 35th Avenue, Oakland. BATOC is your Club, so come and give us ideas for events to schedule during the coming year.
- JAN. 31 - DeMOLAY PARADE. If you weren't one of those lucky enough to squire a queen at the Parade of Lights, you surely won't want to miss this one. Larry Doan's the chap to contact - Phone TH 3-1470.
- FEB. 3 - GENERAL MEETING, 7:30 p.m. - Art's Buffet, 4031 Broadway, Oakland. Board meeting precedes - at 6:30 p.m.
- FEB. 6 - FRIDAY NIGHT RALLY (Open) - Three hours, rain or shine. Bob Perry is Rallymaster. Phone YELLOWSTONE 4-2109.

RALLY PENDING

On Friday, February 6th, the first Rally of the new year will be staged. It's a three hour rally open to sports, imports and stock cars, laid out with the following thoughts in mind:

- To provide a fair challenge to the experienced rallyist.
- To assist the novice in gaining the necessary experience for longer, more difficult events.
- To provide you, the driver, with a few hours' car fun.
- To make a little money for the Club.

There are no tricks or gimmicks to confuse you. It's a straight time and distance contest beginning at 7:30 p.m. from Rheems Center, Moraga. Entry fee of \$1.50 per car is being charged and awards go to the first three places.

- Bob Perry, Rallymaster

A SAD TALE

*Here lie the bones of Felia Frump,
She drove too fast and struck a bump,
Wrapped her Thunderbird 'round a
stump -
Remains are in the city dump.
The Bird, that is, not Mrs. Frump.*



MEMO from MEMBERSHIP

by MARALEE HOUSTON

CONGRATULATIONS to new members Blanche and Max Semler of 85 Mirabel Ave., San Francisco (Phone VA 4-2527). We suggest you add this information to your membership list. We now have 43 cars and 66 people in the Club. Blanche and Max, we are sorry we didn't see you at our January meeting. Missed you.

Our new Vice-President, Dick Staples, announced at the last membership meeting the following positions for the membership board:

Membership Chairman . . . MaraLee Houston
Financial Secretary . . . Rosemarie Volpatti
Recording Secretary . . . Clo Bueno
New Membership Committee:

Guest Cards &

Applications . . . Rosemarie Volpatti
Hostess . . . Faye Edwards
Guest Book . . . Doris Carroll
Name Badges . . . Lorraine Lewis

Technical Committee:

Chairman . . . Bill Houston
Assistants . . . Bob Growden and
James Prichard

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

It has been agreed that the Membership and Technical Committees will hold their monthly meeting on the same night and along with the Activities Committee. The place? Don & Donna's Penthouse, 2438 35th Ave. (Please, don't put your car in the private parking area in the rear of the apartments.) The Membership meeting begins at 8 sharp. Each committee may sit in on the other meetings if they so desire. January 27th is the time.

ATTENTION, '55, '56, and '57 THUNDERBIRD OWNERS . . . You are cordially invited to attend any one of our Club activities and/or business meetings. The latter are held on the first Tuesday of each month at Art's Buffet, 40th and Broadway, Oakland, 7:30 p.m. For activity dates see the

Activities Calendar on the first page of this publication. For further information regarding the Club and how to join it please call me, MaraLee Houston, LO 2-4447, after 5:30 p.m.

HOW OLD ARE YOU NOW?

We would like to wish the following members a Very Happy Birthday:

JANUARY

1/19 Bill Houston

1/21 Doris Carroll

FEBRUARY

2/7 Bev. Staples

2/16 Larry Farrell

2/22 George Rudy

CHANGE OF ADDRESS SECTION:

Skip and Mid Riggs, 1343 Jenkinson, Concord, phone MU 5-1580.

WELL, LOOK WHO'S HERE!

Those members who entered *Ye Olde Happy Valley Rallye* as contestants will remember the personnel supervising checkpoints 1 and 5 - that is, those of you who found checkpoints 1 and 5. The one minute lay-over period revealed the very efficient father-son team of Koonce Senior and Junior busy at their tasks.



Joe was born in Kinston, North Carolina on August 15th, 1922. Joe spent his childhood in Kinston but at 15 left to join the noteworthy ranks of that now defunct governmental organization, the Civilian Conservation Corps.

In 1942 Joe entered the ranks of another federal institution, the U. S. Navy. Joe claims that the only interesting things that happened during his Navy service cannot be published. (Depends upon whom you are talking to, Joe.) Although modest about his tour of duty, it is noteworthy that he visited most of the theatres, particularly the Pacific arena where he was a member of the Navy Underwater Demolition team.

While sauntering around Norfolk, Va., Sailor Koonce encountered Louise, a young miss he had been acquainted with during his youth in Kinston. Altho he had no premonition of events to follow, this chance meeting was a fateful step in the life of our Mr. K. Two years later, Joe and Louise made their nuptial vows in Kinston.

In 1945 Sailor Koonce was promoted to Civilian Koonce at Camp Schumaker, Calif. Then, as a bird in flight, it was off to the East as a civilian employee of the U. S. Navy and Marine Corps. Six years of gentle persuasion were required, but another C.C.C. - the California Chamber of Commerce - finally lured Joe and Louise to our state and permanent residence in Oakland.

Joe is currently a machinist for Fischerberg while Louise is employed by Builders Exchange in Oakland. Altho details are scarce, and possibly confidential, the birth of the Nautilus was aided by the talents of our own Mr. Koonce.

His chief interests are his family, chi-

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GIGANTIC CLEARANCE
SALE

All Must GO!

SPECIAL PRICED TO CLEAR. PIPE
RACKS AND LOW RENT MAKE
THIS AMAZING SACRIFICE POSSIBLE

This ad could appear in your local papers. And soon. Just as soon as you make a small effort to clear out your used, misused, unused and discarded objects. Nothing rejected.

That which is portable bring to the next meeting. That which isn't, call Mrs. Brooks, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Staples or Mr. B. S. Brown and then arrangements will be made to transport your goods to the proper place.

Do it now and the sale can be planned soon. Postpone your good intentions and the sale is off. Then the treasury will be empty and the poor helpless officers of the BATOC will again hound you for money.

- Richard Staples

And don't think he doesn't mean it! Those in attendance at the January meeting will recall that Dick and Larry Farrell, the new Treasurer, accosted all present who were in arrears in their dues, and ended up \$68 richer by the end of the evening. If you are slightly behind, better settle up with Larry soon as the by-laws state that a member 90 days behind is automatically dropped from membership.

Why not take advantage of the "cut rate" special offered of only \$10 for the ensuing 12 months by paying your dues in advance?

HEARSAY by HORSFALL

Hi, fellow Bird Brains! How nice to be up here in the crow's nest for a change instead of the bird's nest. Now I'm looking on.

We are going through festive and rainy spells and functions in comparison have been few and far apart. This is when the real backbone of the membership must keep the Club together. Hold out through the worst of this winter until the weatherman turns us birds loose again. We have had nine months of trial and error. Help us to stay organized during this lull so we can all be together doing the things we enjoyed so much last year. Don't stray - STAY!

Let's all get behind our officers and chairmen and help them work up more and better attractions. And when we go, let's ALL GO! Everyone together can have a heck of a swell time, but a small turnout is so disheartening after so much work planning an activity.

Our new P.O. Box No. is 2734, Dimond Station, Oakland. Write in (or phone) your ideas of what you'd enjoy and where. Our newest members are very enthusiastic about the Club. Let's give them just cause.

When spring breaks and all young men's fancy turns to driving Thunderbirds (alias), let's have at least 50 ready and anxious members on hand to prove we're the best Club in Northern California.

- Art Horsfall

YOU can
develop a stronger
HE-MAN
VOICE!

BE A "SOMEBODY"

Command attention . . . compel women to do your bidding. Have a voice that reeks with character . . . excite mobs. Don't envy the fellow with the Stentorian blast that can shake walnuts out of a tree.

TRAIN YOUR VOICE
AT HOME...PRIVATELY

Any normal voice can be strengthened by adding Lew Edwards Special Driveway Gravel to the breakfast cereal. Phone Timbuctoo 6-9966 and if a woman's voice answers, hang up, for you've dialed the wrong number. Even Faye sounds like Tallulah Bankhead.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH

by DON BROOKS

As the days dwindle away we are drawing near the end of my first month's administration as President of the finest Club to be found anywhere in this vast land. And part of my duty I find is to put forth a word or two in our monthly Birdland for all to digest, provided, of course, you have the stamina.

Usually it's expected of the President to congratulate those members deserving it for tasks performed for the Club's enjoyment. This prescribed task, in a dignified and regal manner (per Little Butterball's husband) with all good and sincere intent is what I am trying to do. However, in a sports car/social club such as ours where do you begin? How does one separate one member who has devoted time and energy toward a club project from another who has devoted time and energy toward the same goal?

The Good Book says that King Solomon faced a similar task and I think he would

SMORGASBORD

The very first event of the New Year and the new regime was carried out by the hard-working ladies of the Club to a fabulous \$ucce\$\$! The Smorgasbord Dinner on January 10th was attended by more than 80 T-Birders and friends plus a smattering of MG and other sportscar-minded people. With the viands being donated by members and labor by the afore-mentioned gals, each serving sold added a buck to the anemic treasury. Sale of beer and soft drinks on the side augmented the take to nearly \$100, by far the best money-raising event we've ever put on.

As one who will never forget the price of giving his lady love the full treatment, gastronomically speaking - pâté de foie gras, champagne and caviar on a National Guard private's salary (and living on corn flakes and water and cobbling my own shoes for six months after each date) - we long ago joined forces with kindred spirits advocating the smorgasbord/hamburger type of banquet on dates. The Society of Big Livers and Small Spenders this group was called, or SOBLASS for short. Some folks, especially girls, shortened it still further by using just the first three initials.

But we digress. Now you can see why we were so pleased when the Club decided on a smorgasbord to start off the New Year, getting off the Steak Dinner kick for a change. Oh, Steak Dinners are fine, only why do we always have to hold ours on a Friday? In case you didn't know it, fish prepared by a restaurant which serves steak as a specialty, tastes like a warmed over girle.

But again we digress. Isn't it nice to read a good financial report for once!

"Hot Lips" Andy Larsen made a New Year's resolution to get the Club back in the red (his joke again). Just to help him along, we now have new stationery printed up with a "professional" mailing address, viz., P.O. Box 2734, Dimond Station, Oakland 2. But those of you who wish to continue firing letters of protest to the Editor should use the San Francisco address as before.

have handled my problem today by asking each of you to take a Thunderbird membership list and study each name carefully, for every person on this list is to be congratulated. For they are all the workers, the doers, the lovers of the Thunderbird who make our club the success it is.

JOE KOONCE

-Continued from page 2

huhua and golf, concerning which he manfully swallows the bitter vetch and admits, "I'm lousy!"

Joe became a welcome addition to our early list of charter members when he took the suggestion placed on his windshield by the indefatigable Faye Edwards and attended a BATOC meeting. Has been with us ever since; a valuable and worthy member. - Dail Moffett

Do you have any particular member whose life story you believe would be interesting, or who seems to be less well known than he or she should be? Or would you like us to print your own tale in this column? Drop your Editor the word. We'd like to hear from you.

WHO'S WHO IN BIRDLAND

Shortly after Christmas a member in good standing was seen on 14th Street in a 190L Mercedes . . . Several members of the Club had a unique party invitation to a lighthouse. They were taken for a 20-minute boat ride on picturesque moonlit San Pablo Bay. At the lighthouse a boom was lowered and boat (complete with scared passengers) was lifted 20 feet to the dock. Although all arrived safely, one lady took several hours to recover. Much fun and frolic had by all . . . Someone is 'way out ahead at breaking the most balloons and someone else has to have a silk petticoat in order to wipe his glasses. All pictures taken should be gassers . . . Many Club members found themselves at the same New Year's party. Wow, what a party! The Club has discovered a new 3 piece band destined to go places - other parties. Also a very artistic hula dancer . . . Who do you suppose wanted to go swimming in the Brooks pool at 2:00 a.m.? . . . Over in a corner three gents played cards, missing all the fun . . . At least two members are going on a diet. Maybe all this carousing helped bring on this drastic action . . . Who ever heard of a tree jumping out in front of a Thunderbird? Deepest sympathy to a wounded bird . . . Who's burning the midnight oil in order to outdo that 270 in the Club and all comers? . . . What Board member is on a baby food kick since attending all the holiday parties, especially the one on 35th Avenue? - By A. Nonymus

Thunderbird OWNERS CLUB	
DON BROOKS	President
DICK STAPLES	Vice-President
LARRY FARRELL	Treasurer
MARALEE HOUSTON	Corresponding Secretary
EDNA NEISS	Recording Secretary
ROGER NEISS, Editor 45 Ecker Street, San Francisco, YUkon 2-6268	

IT'S FOR THE BIRDS

BY THE EDITOR

JANUARY MEETING . . .

Our first general business meeting at the new locale - Art's Buffet, Broadway at 40th - was held on January 6th. Thirty-one cars showed up - about 50 members - and everyone we polled thought it one of the nicest meetings yet. Prexy Babbling - er, Don Brooks conducted a brisk and businesslike meeting during the first portion of the evening and then, after a coffee break, produced color/sound movies of past Indianapolis auto races. "The only way Don will ever top this is by having Brigitte Bardot as guest of honor," remarked one pleased member. Well, he may do almost as well. We believe he is scouting around for one of La Belle France's earlier (and unexpurgated) films, so don't miss the February meeting.

Present at this month's meeting were the following prospective members: Rita Torgouitsky, Melvyn Tally (270 engine), Lucy Sanchez, George Surnos, Rich Milani and Margaret Tracy. Acknowledging a penchant for misspelling names, nevertheless we trust they liked the rest of the members enough to overlook your editor's failings.

Past-president Skip produced some T-Bird jewelry for us to order if interested. Manufactured by the indigent Navajo Indians (Don Sherwood, Chief), available at nominal cost are cufflinks, tie clasps and lapel pins for the gals. Take our word for it if you weren't there. These are good enough to order sight unseen. Or give Skip a call.

A letter of resignation from - of all people - George Rudy was read by Don at this meeting, who has too many irons in the sportscar fire to continue activities in two clubs. Don, return the letter marked "unopened" or "no such address". We can't give up such a valuable member. And maybe he has had a change of heart by now (we hope).

A joint Activities/Membership meeting is set for the Brooks habitation on January 27th and all interested members are invited. Remember, you don't have to be on a committee in order to sit in on any Club gathering. And there may even be refreshments!

"Why should I join the Thunderbird Club?"

"Because we've got 30 times more beautiful girls than guys in the Club."

"Gee, that sounds fine. How come?"

"No beautiful fellows."

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE . . .

Donna Brooks, Art Horsfall, Faye Edwards, Pat Nagle, Dick Staples, Dail Moffett, Jack Taylor, Andy Larsen, Bob Perry, MaraLee Houston, Don Brooks.

Sign on a cross-country truck: "This truck stops for all crossroads, railroad crossings, blondes, brunettes, and will back up 20 feet for a redhead."

Art's Buffet

New York and Filet Steak Dinners - \$1.75

4031 Broadway Oakland

POTPOURRI . . .

There is no "Man of the Month" article this month. Matter of fact, nobody did much of a distinguishing nature during December except perhaps in the field of hoisting cup to lip at prevailing holiday parties. Were we to single out a champion for that we couldn't overlook the qualifications of our own little woman whose ability to extract the most cheer from a cup of spirits should go unchallenged. With a cigarette in one hand, a glass of the bubbly in the other, and an attentive ear on the adjoining stool, she can have more fun than people with good brains. Her "proof" as to who wears the pants in the family nearly brought down the house.

Edna got a good scare during 1958, however. She read so much about the tie-in between smoking and cancer that she decided to give up reading for 1959.

Perhaps the word "wine" carried unpleasant overtones so soon after the holidays. In any event, the scheduled Winery Tour for January (called Enigmatic in the December bulletin) was deferred until later in the year.

We're so sorry to learn that Mary Lou Pratt is still ailing. We're sure that you missed this handsome couple from practically all the December partying that went on. Mary Lou had not recovered from the infection which sent her to the hospital in November. In fact, following our December meeting she had to return to the hospital and didn't get out of bed until January 17th. The infection just wouldn't give up. But Russ believes she is finally on the recovery road this time and reports they are camping at the bit to get back into the swing of things.

FLASH - one of the noblest Romans of them all - a charter member, in fact - has capitulated. On the 17th inst. he bought a '59 Thunderbird Convertible from Cirimele

Ford! Others have indicated they were "looking at" a Porsche, Jag or Mercedes, but the Nagles were the first to act. What happens now? The by-laws specifically debar 2-seated Thunderbirds. We're sure glad we don't have to make a decision on this and at the same time pleased that they chose Thunderbird so long as they were determined to buy a new car. This leaves their 1956 olive colored soft-top for sale, by the way. You all know what a dream car it is. Won first place the only time it was entered in a concourse (Lake Merritt 1958). Dick wants \$2600 for it with wire wheels, and \$2400 with other wheels. Give him a call (TE 2-3866) if you'd like to acquire this beaut.

Jack Taylor heads our new Publicity committee, and has selected as assistants Donna Sell (what an appropriate name for a publicity gal!), Rich Volpatti and Dail Moffett. All appointees were "drafted", but accepted willingly.

"WEDDING OF THE ARTS"

The BATOC is sponsoring Jack Taylor's music festival called "Wedding of the Arts" on the 25th at Happy Valley Inn in Lafayette. In addition to the Jack Taylor Quartet will be several other musical combos, vocalists, and exhibitions by artists Alex Loomis, Jack Wilson and other Bay Area illustrators. This is a benefit to raise funds to present jazz to high schools and colleges. To make it possible for more people to attend, two complete performances are offered - 2 to 6 and 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. Contribution is \$1.50 and our Club realizes 10% from each admission sold.

If you ever drove up to the Associated Station at Coolidge and MacArthur you must have thought Larry Farrell was leading a double life. It is run by Larry's brother who looks so much like him you want to pay him your dues. Drop by sometime to gas up. He's a nice guy and will give you a square deal.

MADAME DE L'AUTO...by Francoise

From Paris we have the new short hemline. Mesdames, get out your needle and thread. The new hemline is only one inch below the knee.

Another popular creation comes to us from the fashion experts of 'Gay Paree'. This is the 'Empire Look'. No wardrobe is complete without a black empire sheath dress. This dress with a smart tweed skirt and soft orlon sweater would be ideal for those overnight tours with the auto club.

For that trip to the snow you will enjoy a pair of black or red leg-o-tards. The new leg-o-tards are not only warm but also solve the old problem of slipping and twisting that you had with the knee stockings. These are very attractive under your wool Bermuda Shorts. Try it and see for yourselves.

Letters

Dear Editor: I use the word "Dear" only because I know no other way to begin a letter. If the type used in the December paper was any bigger than before, I failed to see it. In fact, I even failed to see the lousy bulletin until I put binoculars on it and I got eyes like a hawk.

(Sd) Weakeyes Yokum

Dear Weakeyes: You could call me "Mr. Neiss", pronounced "Nice" (the similarity being appropriate) - with the "e" being silent like the "g" in bologna (the similarity ending there).

Last month's bulletin DID have larger type - 5% larger, according to the actual camera setting. Apparently your problem is to improve your hawk-like eyesight. With this end in mind we are reprinting below an ad from a high-class 15c pulp magazine. May we suggest that you invest the \$3.98 recommended and be able to read every word in "Birdland". One member (Edna M.) even professes to enjoy it.

- Ed

TECH TIPS
by BILL HOUSTON

How would you like to be able to do your own repair work? If you would, then you should obtain a "Shop Manual" for your particular model year in which every mechanical feature of your car is delineated. The manual covers everything from changing a wiper blade to dismantling a hardtop. Each volume has over 500 pages and is just full of lucid drawings and photographs. Most of us T-Birders are the sort who do not want callous, unfeeling outsiders tinkering with our pets. And even when time or equipment prohibit doing the work yourself, you like to know how it should be done.

This volume costs about \$3.00 and is obtainable from:

HELM FOUNDATION,
Ford Publications Dept.,
3000 East Jefferson Street,
Detroit 7, Michigan

Everybody seems to be having trouble with leaks these rainy days. Contrary to accepted opinion, there are a few things to be done about this in addition to rolling up the trousers and trying to dodge the larger drops. By loosening the little Allen set screws in the clamps you may find that a turn or two of the clamp will force the top down snugger against the windshield header and body. Then too, the rubber weatherstripping that goes around the doors is often in a sad state. This item can be replaced through your Ford dealer and you can do the work yourself with the aid of a tube of special cement sold by all auto supply stores. Note: this rubber moulding is not one continuous piece; the points where they butt together must be sealed carefully by the adhesive.

Skip Riggs comes up with a handy hint to make this rubber last indefinitely. At night he leaves his doors closed to the first catch only, i.e., slightly ajar, so as not to flatten the rubber unnecessarily.

And Art Horsfall provides the clincher. Guaranteed to keep the T-Bird rug dry is his trick of taking it out and putting it in the house until spring. Thanks, Art.

READING GLASSES THAT MAGNIFY



WEAR THEM ON 10-DAY TRIAL **FREE** (includes special chemical cloth to clean glasses quick.)

Here's good news for those who can't read Thunderbird bulletins. NOW YOU CAN READ SMALL PRINT! Throw away your present old-fashioned prescription lenses because these precision spectacles give you a magnifying glass for both eyes at the same time.

NOW! PRECISION GROUND GLASSES ONLY \$3.98

LAST RESORT OPTICAL COMPANY
Box 1234, Cincinnati 567, Ohio

WITH THUNDERBIRD'S MARRIAGE TO THE GALAXIE THIS YEAR DOES IT MEAN THAT ALL EARLIER MODELS ARE ILLGITIMATE?

