

"What's New in BIRD-LAND?"

Volume 2, Number 2

February, 1959

ACTIVITIES REPORT

by ANDY LARSEN

With our first Rally Seminar under our belts I see where I have to get my old math book out and do a little studying. We were happy to see so many members interested in improving themselves in this rally game. Don (Seat-of-the-Pants) Brooks thinks he's doing great if he finishes a rally - the heck with winning it.

The first thing to remember is never to take your wife or best friend along as navigator. Your wife will divorce you and the friend will become your worst enemy.

Upon finding that you're lost the best thing to do is head for the nearest bar for a cool one and sooner or later Dick Nagle - I mean the rest of them - will wander in and find you. Which is a quote from Mr. Tallulah Edwards.

Reading your rally instructions carefully so you'll know whether to turn right or bear right is another point Bob Perry brought out. Using a slide rule isn't as difficult as it looks in measuring time and distance after Bob explained it. Most of us are eagerly anticipating these Friday nighters.

On January 31st the DeMolay Motorcade through most of the East Bay proved a very cool outing. With a pretty girl and escort your fellow-members were able to show off their cars to good advantage. This Motorcade was the longest yet for our Club. Starting at Lake Merritt it progressed through downtown Oakland to Berkeley, back to MacArthur Blvd. and out to 90th Street. We were all happy to

see Russ Pratt come out of seclusion and to learn that his pretty little wife is much better - finally.

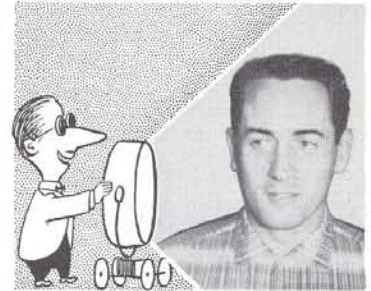
On February 5th Checkpoint personnel met with Bob Perry at Larsen's pad for final instructions for the Rally on the 6th. On Friday, the 6th, the first car was out at 8:30 p.m. I was at the first checkpoint, wondering when that car would show up. Where could Brownie be? The average wasn't bad, though. 50% finished. The Farrells came traipsing in two hours after the others. Maybe he had to work late.

The results found the Brookses lugging home the hardware, even if he didn't really try. Donna was navigator, too; so far no hint of divorce. (Imagine having that delectable morsel being offered up as bachelor bait!) Our friend, Don Marchy and gal-pal Linda, came in second, and in an (ugh) Corvette, at that. This was Don's first rally and probably won't be his last.

Bill and MaraLee Houston didn't get lost this time. Came in third, in fact!

Not much of February left as you read this, for one reason and another. But be sure to scan the Club Calendar on this page anyway. Attend the March meeting if you possibly can and learn the details of the events that rascal Larsen has conjured up for March and April. Big things are being cooked up in the lad's fertile mind.

THE BIRDLAND SPOTLIGHT IS ON



LARRY DOAN

Plagiarizing a title from the Reader's Digest, our profile this month concerns a young bachelor charter member of the Bird-Nest, who is the Most...Unforgettable...and believe it, a Character.

A native Californian, Larry Doan was born in Alturas when T was a model and not a Bird. His family moved to San Francisco in 1932 when Larry was one year old. Even then he possessed an independent spirit, but he came along, as the family ties were still strong.

Again, the family moved when Larry was five. This time the move took them north to Oregon. (It is suspected that the folks hoped to cool him down a bit when the rains came.)

The usual childhood, and escapades of youth, some on the ranches of Eastern Oregon where he spent his summers, brought Larry to adulthood at which time he answered the call of his country. He spent a three-year hitch in the Coast Guard, taking his boot training at Government Island in Alameda. With memories of his childhood haunts somewhat dimmed by the years, Larry quickly found new ones, which strengthened his resolve to some day return.

Larry attended Electronics Technician School in Groton, Connecticut, served in various areas and capacities, and was discharged (honorably) as an ET2, in 1954.

Two years of college followed, with emphasis on Electrical Engineering. The call of the home state then became too great, plus the desire to try his wings in an area somewhat more exciting than the home town of Portland.

Larry returned to the Bay Area in the

- Continued on next page

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

- FEB. 27 - 3-DAY SNOW TRIP - Snow conditions are the greatest right now!
- MAR. 3 - GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING - Art's Buffet, 40th & Broadway, Oakland - 7:30 p.m. Board meeting precedes, at 6:30.
- MAR. 8 - WINERY TOUR - Meet at Jack London Square 8 a.m. Three or four wineries are on the itinerary, followed by lunch. Back to J. London Square for Pizza.
- MAR. 22 - PHOTO RALLY - This one's a real gasser. Don't miss it. First group out at 8:30 a.m. Come to the Alameda Shopping Center on Park Street.

MEMO from MEMBERSHIP

by MARALEE HOUSTON

CONGRATULATIONS to our three new members, Gene Andrade, 2054 Alameda Ave., Apt. C, Alameda (LA 3-8508); Margaret L. Tracy (Tracy), 137 Kendall Rd., Walnut Creek (YE 5-3790); and Melvin L. Talley (Corky), 1015 Morrison Canyon Road, Niles (SY 3-2964). Don't forget to add their names and addresses to your membership list. We now have 46 cars and 67 people in our club.

Suggest you make the following correction on your address list:

Jack Enright, 3292 Withers, Lafayette
(no phone)

Thanks go to Art and Maxine Horsfall for submitting the most prospective names for January, '59 (four). Don't forget to call LO 2-4447 and submit the names of your prospects so I can send them a paper. Like to say how nice it was to see the following guests at our February business meeting and hope we see a lot more of them in the future:

Jack Bras Maxine Nunes Jim Postich
Chuck Bras Richard Milani Jay Stewart
Rita Torgouitsky

30- 60- 90-DAYS DELINQUENCY

As some of you already know, we are sending out 30, 60 and 90-day due notices to those behind in their dues. If you are one of those to receive such a letter, be sure to act upon it immediately so we won't have to send the follow-up. The 90-day notice will be the final one and if you don't respond then your name will be brought before the Board of Directors for action to cancel your membership. If this paragraph hits YOU, your cooperation will be appreciated so that such action need never be taken.

IMPORTANT NOTICE - PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

In order to join our club you must have a Guest Card signed at three club functions (two socials and one general business meeting) within a two months period of time. If you have had guest card signed in accordance with the above we suggest you then come to our next Membership and Technical Committee meeting (the last Tuesday of each month) at the Brooks home, 2438 - 35th Ave., Oakland, for car and insurance inspection. If you haven't got a Guest Card, you may get one at any club affair - or there will be one attached to the third copy of the club paper for your convenience. If we don't hear from you following the third paper we will assume you are not interested in joining the club and your name will be dropped from our mailing list. (Remember - the Membership and Technical group meets the last Tuesday

of each month.)

ACTIVE MEMBERS TAKE NOTICE:

We had only 24 cars present at the February meeting. Twenty-four out of 46 is not too good a turnout - let's see more of you at the March meeting. Don't forget - "TOGETHERNESS" makes the Club.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

March
6 Clara Johnston
23 Artillio Rossi
27 B. S. (Brownie) Brown

If your name doesn't appear it's because I don't have your birth date. But I would like to - so hop to it and let me have your natal day before it's too late.

NEW CLUB MEMBER



On February 2nd our membership was swelled by the addition of 8 lb. Lisa Loren Staples who entered this vale at 4 a.m. Impatient Lisa missed her mommie's birthday by only five days (Feb. 7). All are doing fine. (Except your Editor. Did Dick *have* to give out the cigars at the General Meeting?)

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH

by DON BROOKS

From Up Here on the Limb I Would Like to See . . .

Someone winning a Concours d'Elegance besides Skippy . . . An American Rally between Thunderbirds and Corvettes (strictly seat-of-the-pants, of course) . . . Art and Maxine getting to make that trip to Europe, buying a 160 Mercedes, being active as a member of the Board of Directors, and working as a Chevrolet salesman . . . More than eight members on a rally . . . Some interest in the films I break my neck getting to show at our General Meetings . . . Contributors to "Birdland" getting their articles in early so Roger Neiss won't get gray hair . . . Dwight Johnston without a mustache and more hair top-side . . . A Thunderbird station wagon for expanding families . . . Bev Staples not pregnant . . . Jack Taylor playing Chopin (I would much prefer Tchaikowsky but I can spell Chopin) . . . Some place to put the front license on our Birds . . . Ben Bueno with a muddy Bird or even dusty once in awhile . . . Membership Committee paying attention to the Activities Committee in their joint meeting . . . A Miss Thunderbird sponsored by the Club in the Miss Oakland Pageant . . . A Thunderbird participating in an auto cross . . . Lars Larsen with a girl friend . . . Bob Perry receiving recognition for all the work he does on our rallies . . . More than eight members on a rally (that's twice) . . . Bert Brown laughing . . . MaraLee Houston mad . . . Skip Riggs not talking . . . Mid Riggs period . . . Jack Enright and Rosemary Hallum with Jack Taylor and Donna Sell on a double date - in one Thunderbird! . . . Joe White drinking something besides brandy . . . Dick Nagle drinking milk . . . A Corvette that won't melt in the sun . . . More members like Bob Growden . . . Trees as lovely as a poem that Rich Volpatti can hit . . . Owen Lewis bald . . . Sue Ranley as an active member . . . Someone giving Dail Moffett pills for his nerves . . . 46 members on a rally . . . 46 members at a social . . . Nobody

showing up for the general meeting . . . More joint activities . . . Less cliques . . . Roy and Paula Shideler at our socials (he's a rally man) . . . Mary Lou Pratt back in the swing of things . . . Joe Koonce connecting with a golf ball (he'd drive it a mile) . . . Lela staying sober at a New Year's party so she can stay til the bitter end . . . Frank Ficker's Dixieland band playing on the Lawrence Welk Show . . . Something I would not like to see . . . Larry Farrell in a crap game with the Club's money . . . More things I would like to see . . . Bernie Carroll and her boyfriend being active (members) . . . Warren and Jackie getting married and moving closer to Oakland . . . Larry Doan with plenty of cars on time for a parade . . . Lew Edwards taking first place at Del Monte Lodge Concours . . . Frenchy Andrade getting up early in the morning . . . one hundred members driving Thunderbirds (big ones or small ones so long as all members like one another as much as I like all of you).

LARRY DOAN - cont.

fall of '57, and is once again a full fledged native son. Currently a draftsman at Shand and Jurs in Berkeley, he does intend to return to the University for his Degree. In the meantime he's busy as Parade Chairman for the Club, and in the multitude of avenues open for a Bachelor with a Bird.

Hobbies of Hi-Fi, skiing and dancing . . . a perfectionist by nature . . . a good-looking guy with a wide interest in the affairs of the world . . . a Bird without a mate . . . these things characterize the profile of the month.

From his aerie high in the Berkeley Hills, ready to wing his way into almost any adventure . . . even romance . . . Larry Doan.

- Glenn Leuning

Thunderbird OWNERS CLUB

BAY AREA

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

TRAVEL

PLANNING A SPRING VACATION?

WHY NOT MEXICO?

Many American tourists are spending their vacations down Mexico-way. Many others ask, "Why Mexico?" Speaking as a couple who have driven to Mexico City and Acapulco, we loved it, and plan to go again this spring.

On our last trip we found Mazatlan to have the most of what we wanted. Endless miles of white sandy beaches, moderate weather and low prices. Also excellent sea foods and fruit salads.

We stayed at the newest and best recommended hotel with a private beach extending from three to five miles in length. This is the Hotel Playa Mazatlan. An attractive double room facing the ocean was \$7 per day. Meals ran from 40¢ for breakfast to \$1.60 for a very fancy dinner. Mexican Beer was only 8¢ a bottle and mixed drinks from 20¢ up.

Besides swimming in 72 degree water, there is deep sea fishing, horseback riding and surf boarding. About four hours south of Mazatlan there is a primitive tropical town where the jungle is thick with banana, papaya and mango trees. It also boasts many rare and beautiful birds. The five hour motorboat trip up a winding river from this tropical city called San Blas is a must. The natives live in grass huts and wash their clothes on the rocks at the river bank.

Tentative plans are being made for a 10-day trip the last week of April or first week of May. To go to Mazatlan you have to enter Mexico at Nogales which is just south of Tucson, Ariz. We figure time on the road to Tucson for about 12 hours, and then 14 hours down to Mazatlan. The Owen Lewises and Horsfalls are planning to go down with us. Anyone else interested in joining? For more information, call the Nagles, TE 2-3866.

— Pat Nagle

As Editor of this rag it is our lot to perform many parts. You have doubtless noted we often double as reporter, typesetter, cameraman, artist, and sometimes play Cynthia Grey to those in need of heart balm (the publication is under subscribed). So now let us make like a travel editor and give you our opinion of the seemingly fascinating story of Mexico as described by our friend, Pat Nagle.

Not just because of the trouble U.S. citizens have been having down there of late, we would advise against going to Mexico at present. First off, it costs.

For another thing, it is too hot. Day-time temperatures hover between 70 and 90 degrees, and may even go higher. If you discard your California garb for the shorts and halter get-up, exposure to the merciless sun can result in dark discoloration of the skin. This may even become a deep tan, exceedingly unbecoming when you return to California.

Prices may have gone up some since I was a lad — after all, Mexico was discovered by Spain in the meantime. But in our early days one could get three lbs of sugar, a pound of coffee, a quart of whisky and a wife for \$3 in Mexico. But how good is Mexican whisky?

Should you venture from your motel at all you run grave risk of hosting sand fleas, hook worms and ticks which are lying in wait to sample American flesh. And if you elect to loll about poolside beneath a beach umbrella, your siesta is

quite likely to be disrupted by the stinging sensation in your big toe caused by the 3-inch scorpion which has decided to set up housekeeping on your metatarsal. And this choice character has a playful friend — the tarantula — who gets the tourists the scorpion overlooks. Is this what you want?

But if you are determined to go to Mexico anyway, be very careful what you eat while there. Boil all the water, especially for coffee. (In Nagle's case, he will have to boil his beer.) Mexicans thrive on food that affects a Northerner like a red-hot ramrod thrust through the mouth and on into the nether regions. One bite of native chili can send a tourist to bed for a week. And don't think it is easy to avoid eating chili. What you take to be shredded wheat will have chili impregnated in it. At lunch the meat-loaf is — you guessed it — really chili in disguise. For the main meal you have a choice between enchiladas, tortillas, tostados, chalupas — and chili. To break the monotony you may have pie for dessert — made from tamales! All over the dining rooms of Mexico one can hear muffled screams from tourists who have innocently partaken of native food and are on their way to bed for a week. Is this what you want?

Don't let it happen to you. Don't go to Mexico this spring. Stay here with the rest of us who can't afford to go, either. A leaky top isn't really so terrible.

MADAME DE L'AUTO

by Françoise

Big News! The spring styles will appeal to the men again this year. The sack dress is completely out. The feminine waist will be almost normal. A modified empire with a short jacket is most popular. However, the fancy skirt waist dress and the full skirt are still in style. The House of Dior showed many dresses with large stand-up collars and the sailor-type collar at their spring fashion show.

Blue in all its shades is the foremost color for spring. Running from the very palest shades to navy blue, the favored fabrics are shantung silk taffeta, chiffon and linen.

To have imagination and variety in one's cooking is always in style. The recipe for this month is a tasty hot dish which can be served with any meat.

CORN FONDUE

1 Cup Milk	1 Tblsp. Melted Butter
1 Cup Bread Crumbs	
1 Cup Grated Fresh Cheese	½ Tsp. Salt
1 Cup Corn	¼ Tsp. Pepper
2 Eggs	Dash Paprika
	Chopped Parsley

Combine the first four ingredients and the egg yolks — fold in the stiffly beaten egg whites. Bake one hour at 324 degrees. This will serve four to six people.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE — Two '56 Birds (formerly owned by Messrs. Pritchard and Owens). Call Art Horsfall, TW 3-4567.

FOR SALE — '55 Bird with Fordomatic. Warren Clark, KE 2-8542.

FOR SALE — Soft Top for T-Bird in excellent shape. Call Bill Laws (Radio KROW) at TEmplebar 2-1655 and make offer.

BABY SITTING — 40¢ an hour. 50¢ per hour after midnight. Telephone Dale Horsfall, ANDover 1-8995.

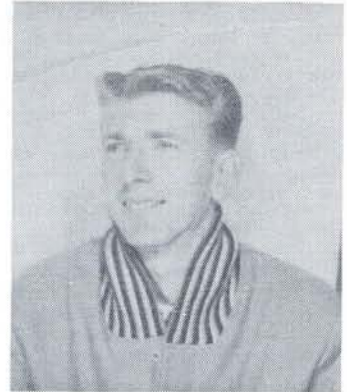
TRADE — Your car plus ??? for a '57 Bird, Standard transmission and 18,000 miles. Prefer Fordomatic. Art Horsfall — TW 3-4567.

FOR SALE — Convertible Top from the Lewis '56. Nice condition. \$150. Call Owen Lewis (KE 3-7430).

WANTED — White and Black Seat for '57 T-Bird. Call Max or Blanche Semler (VA 4-2527) between 1 and 4 p.m. QUESTION — Why doesn't some member trade his tired '55 or '56 in on the Nagle Prize Winner? It's still unsold. TEmplebar 2-3866.

CATTLE BARON OR CITY SLICKER?

Herein is member Warren Clarke's decision . . .



Charter member Warren Clark was born in 1937 at Covelo, Calif. Covelo, for those astute club members who are willing to risk themselves and Birds in search of the picturesque by-ways of our state, is located approximately 65 miles north-east of Ukiah in the sparsely-settled regions of No. Calif. (Factual data: Covelo, pop. 348 — 1950 census.)

Warren's first conveyance, other than foot, was a horse. In fact, Warren still has a horse — a luxury generally available only to the family possessing two cattle ranches.

Like most young males of our generation, member Clarke acquired an early yen for sports cars. At the age of 14, Warren's grandfather brought him a bright red 1929 Model A Roadster. "It wasn't exactly a sports car, but it was sporty."

Upon graduation from high school in 1955, Warren joined the forces of the State Division of Forestry, fighting fires to help keep California green and golden. Following this, Ranger Clarke worked at the mill of the Crawford Lmbr. Co. for two years. It was then that a seed of unrest began to grow within him. He wanted to see the big city. The urge became unbearable; our hero packed his bags and set course for Oakland.

After spending a month in Oakland he moved to San Rafael, his present residence. He is now employed by H. Koch & Sons Fibreglass Products in Corte Madera, where he spends his time as an inspector on the production line.

Inspector Clarke was now ready to fulfill a second desire. And fill it he did! Most club members are aware of Warren's prize possession; a sharp-looking red T-Bird. (*What about Jackie?* — Ed) Shortly after obtaining the beloved Bird, Warren was asked to join the BATOC by, of all things, a non-member!

Warren and Jackie (*At last!* — Ed) (Mr. Clarke's main interest) have been regular comers to the club meetings and activities for some time now. It seems incredible considering their present active participation, that Jackie wouldn't even come in from the car the first time this twosome attended a meeting. Apparently our club is blessed with some high calibre salesmen, for Jackie's appearance has been very dependable since that time.

As for Warren's major decision — City Slicker seems to be winning hands down!

— Dail Moffett

When you buy a convertible top on time you really are in debt over your ears.

POTPOURRI . . .

Our apologies to Joe White for neglecting to include this personal item in last month's Birdland. His daughter, Andrea, was married in Pasadena on January 2nd to Richard Selfridge, who just happens to own a T-Bird too. Joe's other daughter, the stunning Mary Lou, was Maid of Honor. Lucky people, they got to see the Rose Parade first-hand while in the Southland.

Well, well. Three more '56 Birds figuratively bit the dust lately. Jim and Joan Prichard traded for a station wagon; The Lewis's for a '59 T-Bird hard top; and vice-president Dick Staples for a new T-Bird convertible. All needed extra space of one kind or another.

When it comes to active members, we will take Frank Ficker over everybody. He accepts each assignment with Grace!

Did you realize Owen Lewis recently underwent surgery on his jaw for cyst removal? Doctors believe this the cause of his temperamental digestive system, rather than ulcers as first diagnosed. Glad to report Owen is well along the road to complete recovery.

Another fine meeting was held on February 3rd, though not so well attended as some. Many interesting subjects were discussed and we are only sorry all of you weren't there to participate. Brother Brooks does a swell job planning and conducting a meeting, and even if he failed to produce Brigitte Bardot, he did come up with Jimmy Stewart in a safe-driving opus entitled, "And Then There Were Four". Too bad some thought it time to call it an evening as the movie began. They missed a thought-provoking commentary on the hazards of everyday driving.

Don wishes to remind any of you who may have taken "home movies" of past Thunderbird affairs to bring their films to one of the monthly meetings for general viewing.

Our thanks to Art's Buffet for use of their main dining room for Club meetings. There has been no charge for this privilege. We just hope our presence has resulted in enough extra business to make it worth their while.

In case you were wondering what happened to the rummage sale pickups a few Sundays back, Dick Staples is an amateur meteorologist and knew it was going to blow up a gale. (It did!) But bring what stuff you can to the March 3rd meeting, at which time another date will be chosen to call for your heavy loads.

CAR ACTING UP?
LET US TUNE AND TEST
IT WITH OUR NEW
**SUN-SCOPE
MOTOR TESTER**

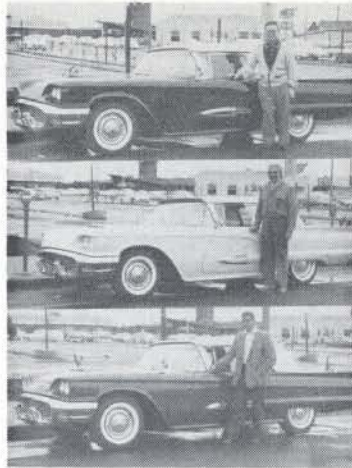
This amazing "electronic detective" quickly locates hard-to-find engine and ignition troubles. Drive in and let us tell you more about it - See it demonstrated on your own car!

**BOB FARRELL'S
FLYING "A"**

KE 2-9266
COOLIDGE & MacARTHUR BLVD.

Those 4-Passenger T-Birds . . .

PROUD OWNERS OF NEW BIRDS



Now we come to perhaps the most important feature of this, the February "Birdland!". As most of you already know, we are faced with a weighty decision inasmuch as three of our most cherished members have capitulated and bought new 2-seated Thunderbirds. Since an amendment to the charter was passed only a short time ago, limiting membership to owners of '55, '56 and '57 models, we must now decide whether to rewrite the charter to include ANY Thunderbird, or allow these fine members to leave our club after six months. It's a very tough decision to make, with salient arguments on each side. Your Editor has received many letters pro and con for inclusion in the February "Birdland!" - too many, in fact, to include in any one issue. We have selected the smaller ones perforce, so that you may study as many different opin-

Art's Buffet
**New York and Filet
Steak Dinners - \$1.75**

4031 Broadway Oakland

PARADES

Cooperation from the weatherman provided the Bird Club with the opportunity to participate in two parades during January. The first, on Jan. 17th, was the annual March of Dimes Parade through downtown Oakland with Maj. Gen. William F. Dean as Grand Marshall. Notables from surrounding cities, Queens in their finery, floats and bands, vied with the colorful Birds to make this an outstanding parade, re-emphasizing a worthy and needy cause. Six cars were requested and provided. Special thanks go to Donna Brooks who helped to carry the load in making arrangements.

The second parade was the DeMolay Sweethearts Parade on the 31st. Thirteen cars were requested for this one but only eleven responded, partly due to a misinterpretation as to the date of the parade from a report in a local paper. The event was otherwise successful and the spirit of the members was made manifest by those who dashed down to the meeting place to see if they could be of help, once the misconception as to the date had been cleared.

The combination of beautiful girls, sleek T-Birds with proud owners, and a balmy sunny California morning is one that is hard to beat. The success of the January parades should be auspicious for parades throughout the year.

- Larry Doan

ions as possible. Should this matter remain unsettled by the time we prepare the March publication, we will print more of these letters then. The suggestion of Maralee Houston below seems a wise course to follow for the time being, inasmuch as a member remains in the club for six months after parting with his Bird anyway.

A further word seems in order. The Big Decision is not ours individually to make. The entire matter will be in the hands of your duly-elected Board of Officers, viz.: Dick Staples, Edna Neiss, Maralee Houston, Larry Farrell, and the five members of the Advisory Board who collectively share President Don's one vote between them. Now read on, and if it prompts you to write a few words yourself on the issue, please feel free to do so.

... none of us really knows just how it will work out - one way or the other. I'd like to suggest that rather than vote again just now, anyone presently a member who buys a '58 or '59 Thunderbird, remain his six months in the club as per our present Constitution and By-Laws. Then we can see how things work out with a few '58 and '59's in the club, and vote at that time.

- Maralee Houston

In 1956 had I wanted a competitive racing car I wouldn't have bought a Thunderbird. I wanted comfort, handling and style. I still want them, and before making a purchase I tried several competitive makes. Again I bought comfort, handling and style - in my '59 Thunderbird.

My feelings toward the Club follow the social trend. I am more proud of this car than I was of my 1956. I just couldn't bring myself to spend money on a three year-old car. Many of you are facing the same problem and ruling out the 4-passenger Bird will knock out half the charter members in the next year. This club is what we hope to be a permanent Thunderbird Club, no matter what the year. We are a group of people who enjoy our cars and each other. We don't want to doom this club to a couple of years - and then inevitable death.

It is clearly defined even by the Ford Motor Co. that all Thunderbirds are personal cars and not sports cars. Those of us who have tried to compete with sports cars know that only too well. I can see no good reason for excluding the new type Thunderbird. Can you????

It is with deep regret that I learn of the defection of some of our most valued members. However, this leaves me with the same feeling I have when reading an obituary notice.

I was one of the members in attendance at a meeting where more than a majority indicated they would never stray from the purpose for which this Club was formed, or fail to remember that our common denominator is a car proudly presented as a competitor with or companion to a sports car.

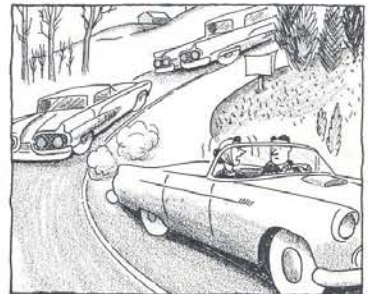
It is unfortunate that the people of FoMoCo disavowed us as a sports car, first calling the Thunderbird a personal car, then manufacturing a sedan with a Thunderbird label on it. THIS IS THE HEIGHT OF BLASPHEMY! How can we identify ourselves with sports car groups driving busses?

I reiterate - I would deeply regret the loss of any member who strays from the fold, BUT our constitution and by-laws specifically designate the conditions of eligibility for our Club.

I feel it is presumptuous and most unfair to those of us who have a dedicated feeling for this "gem" of a car to ask us to make a special provision because of their defection, and I would rather bid them a fond adieu than see the BAY AREA THUNDERBIRD OWNERS CLUB cluttered up with Detroit iron having not the slightest resemblance to the car around which the Club was formed.

- Dought F. Johnston

Your Editor regrets being unable to print more of the material submitted on this subject. A paragraph or so was all that had been solicited, but evidently this item inspired all to rise to great heights of oratory. Our apologies to Skip Riggs, Lew Edwards, Don Moffett, Owen Lewis and Art Horsfall for carrying over their thoughts until next month.



"But I AM car sick. When I look at the new Thunderbirds, then look at ours, I get car sick!"