

"What's New in BIRD-LAND?"

Volume 2, Number 4

April 1959

ACTIVITIES REPORT

by ANDY LARSEN

Well, fellow-Thunderbirders, after the events of the past month we of the Activities Committee decided that a new system was in order to insure that future events will run more smoothly.

We've decided that perhaps we've allowed ourselves to get in a rut and that a call for new blood might be just the transfusion needed. Until now the bulk of the work has fallen on one or two fellows, and the events just couldn't get the necessary attention. In the future, we're going to call on two assistants per event. With three members pitching in the time that each has to spend will be brief. And don't forget, at the last Membership Meeting we were voted up to \$25 travel expense in planning tours and rallies.

Under the new plan we will assign a new member and an old member to work with an Activities committeeman on each event. Such members will be selected at the monthly Activities meeting and notified by phone. If you have a valid reason for not accepting a specific assignment, you will be expected to volunteer for an alternate event. Please don't pass the buck if you are called upon. Too many members have fallen back on "excusitis" recently, and that's being mighty unfair to the few hard-workers who have been doing all the work for the enjoyment of the majority. 'Nuff sed.

I guess all of us were disappointed with the change of destination for the first annual meeting with the Southern California T-Bird Club. But the drive along the coast to Santa Maria is a beautiful one, and part of the gas may be put up by sponsoring Ford dealers if we are successful in making this an economy run. But the nice people at the other end of the trip will be the same ones we were going to meet at Yosemite, so plan to go along with us. Final details and plans will be announced at our General Business Meeting in May as well as the next Birdland.

Congrats to Bob Cole for placing first in the T-Bird class in the First Cab-in Rally put on by the Corvette Club. Yours truly placed third in a field of three. Poor Donna and Don. They ran this rally and didn't even have a chance to work up a good fight. Maybe next time. All kidding aside, we enjoyed ourselves very much; only next time my navigator is going to wear his glasses.

The gathering at Bob Cole's place on 35th Ave. after the so-called Photo Tour turned into a grand climax for the day. Wish I could have gotten up there for some of that Chinese food.

Be looking for you all at our next event.

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

- MAY 5** - GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING -- Art's Buffet, 40th & Broadway, Oakland - 7:30 p. m. Board meeting first -- at 6:30.
- MAY 9** - MISS OAKLAND PARADE. This is the one for you lady-lovers. Ring up dot schnook Larsen if you'd like to convoy a real lovely, tho with Donna and Bev and Dottie and Lucy and Jackie and Faye and Mary Lou right in our own group, how can you find better? The number's KE 6-1244.
- MAY 10** - BEACH PARTY -- an economy tour so you can save your dough for the event following. Sun, sand and water for the red-blooded. (In May? Brrr-r-r-r!)
- MAY 29, 30 & 31** - THE MAIN EVENT OF '59! The first annual meeting with our Southern California neighbors at Santa Maria. More sun, sand and water, with corn and rye added for those who like. Fun and conviviality for all. Plan to come to this if you never make another event!

LOST? We don't want to lose you! According to our By-Laws, those who are three months behind in their dues are automatically dropped from membership. Annual dues are just \$10 if paid in advance, and \$1 per month otherwise. So, if this concerns you, please see Larry Farrell and settle up. Don't get lost!



WASN'T ALWAYS "NICE"

When We Were Young

Here are two more celebrated Club members as they looked to these long years ago. You can get your clues beneath the pics, but if you didn't bring your sharp brains today, you can find the answers in other parts of this paper.



TODAY GLABROUS

We hope you like this feature of "Birdland". If so, maybe you have an old picture of yourself, your hubby, or your wife that you'd like to see printed. We'd certainly appreciate your sending it to us. And if you can sneak the picture to us without your loved one's knowledge, so much the better. No harm will befall your treasured snaps.



The above photo was not posed. It was taken on Sunday, March 22, during the Mystery Tour, an event which has already been acknowledged the worst affair we've yet staged. Perhaps we should forget the whole sorry mess and keep our fingers crossed hoping it won't happen again. But that would be the coward's way out and besides, it presents your Editor with grist for his monthly essay. After all, we can't write about Mexico indefinitely.

This is not an indictment against the chaps who planned this tour, and then were unable to make it themselves. Although this didn't help matters, the bad features of the Mystery Tour have been all too evident in the past.

The guest participant in the above snapshot had a flat tire 'way off in no man's land. He waded the caravan on, not knowing that his spare was also devoid of air. But someone could have stopped to see what was wrong. As a result, this poor lad had to wait 45 minutes before a passing Corvette, of all cars, drove him to the nearest town for help in repairing the tire.

We understand that the "mystery" part of this tour was its terminus, the Old Winchester House in San Jose, which had lost its esoteric aspects for this particular group of T-Birders back in ought three. And, because the tariff had recently been increased to \$1.50 per head - er, person (head privileges were free), only one guest couple decided to invest the \$3.00 to learn why Old Lady Winchester wanted to live so long. When they emerged an hour or so later, it was to find all the other tourers gone! Had it been hot-headed little us, we would have made a purchase on the premises and taken up the pursuit with a Winchester .22.

We think these matters should be mentioned, if only to illustrate a facet of T-Bird touring that has occurred before, i.e., running off and leaving someone behind. After several close calls ourselves, the Neisses learned never to be last in a convoy . . . never to dally around to admire the scenery . . . and never (but never) to go off alone to make a coffee deposit without first removing the ignition keys from every assembled Thunderbird! When stopping at restaurants, we make it a point to sit by the door so that when some impetuous eager beaver starts his move we are always swept along with the vanguard. Sometimes by the time we get back to San Francisco there is an extreme urgency to visit the bathroom but, by golly, we GET back!

MEMO from MEMBERSHIP

by MARALEE HOUSTON

CONGRATULATIONS to our four new members. Suggest you add their names and addresses to your membership list. We're growing all the time - we now have 43 cars and 63 people in our Club.

PAUL A. TANZILLO, 2212 Woolsey St., Berkeley, Calif. - TH 5-8044

LUCY C. SANCHEZ, 785 Pinedate Court, Hayward, Calif. - LU 1-4593

MAXINE NUNES, 20347 Rancho Court, Hayward, Calif. - JE 8-4225

JAY V. STEWART, 3545 Harrison Street, Oakland, Calif. - OL 4-0715

CHANGE OF ADDRESS FOR THE FOLLOWING:

LELA MIRGON, 2141 Buchanan St., San Francisco, Calif. - WE 1-5942

CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES to Melvin (Corky) Talley and his new bride. Hope to see you both real soon.

New member Lucy Sanchez and old-timers Don and Donna Brooks tied for submitting the most names of prospec-

tive members during March - 2 each. Twelve names given in all, for an approximate total of 56 prospective members.

WELCOME to our guests and prospective members at our April general business meeting. Guests: Mr. & Mrs. Ray DeCosta and Dick Wilson of the M-G Owners' Club. Prospective Members: Mr. & Mrs. John McNeil, Ernest Silva, Joe Gonzales, Bob White and David Hoptry. Hope to see a lot of you in the future.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

5/3 - Roger Neiss 5/25 - Dick Nagle
5/14 - G. Andrade 5/26 - Art Horsfall
5/20 - Mid Riggs

MEMBERSHIP & TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING at Don Brooks, 2438 - 35th Ave., Oakland, April 28, 1959 - 8:00 p. m. sharp.

WOW! We had 33 cars out of 43 and 45 members out of 63 at our April meeting - I wonder why? Would be nice if we could have that kind of enthusiasm shown at all of our meetings and club events.

• • •

PICKED UP AT THE APRIL MEETING . . .

DON SHERWOOD

Activities Chairman A. Larsen forgot to mention in his column that he'd like to know how many would care to sit in on one of Don Sherwood's Thursday evening T-V shows. This would be an upcoming mid-week "extra" if enough evince an interest to make the event worthwhile.

Bet you didn't know that D. Sherwood used to own a '56 Thunderbird, did you? This item we culled from an old issue of The Thunderbird Club of America 'News'. Today, however, Don drives a Cadillac - the cad!

VOTE OF CONFIDENCE

Didn't it make you glow all over when new member Richard Milani got up and suggested a hand for Don Brooks follow the hour-long hassle over election procedure? It was the loudest round of applause these old ears have yet heard within the BATOC inner sanctum. Dom well deserved it was, too!

ACTIVITIES MEETING CHANGE

Formerly held jointly with Membership/Technical, the Activities Meeting (A. Larsen, prop.), will henceforth be held on the third Tuesday of each month, leaving the Membership people to go it alone on the fourth Tuesday. As of now, the Brooks Hostelry, 2438 - 35th Street in Oakland, continues to be the site. Both groups like to have a big audience, so drop around some Tuesday.

AND ONE FINAL ITEM . . .

That old Salt-and-Pepper Head who sits in as your Recording Secretary demands that we give equal time to Donald Brooks. "After all, BOTH of them are handsome physical specimens," is her contention, "and people must get awfully tired reading how beautiful you think Donna is. Say something nice about

Don once." You know, the lady may have a point there.

That was two weeks ago. I still haven't thought of anything nice to say. All right, he IS a handsome cuss. Or was until he got his crewcut. He once had cranial foliage sufficient to hide a crate of cabbage. Now he looks like a shorn sheep. And this is the guy who publicly chided Dwight Johnston for wearing his top crop shorter than his mustache!

Oh well, we tried.



AN OPEN LETTER

This month we held an election to decide what to do about the big Birds - whether or not to allow them in our Club. Here we are on page 3 before even mentioning this very important matter. Frankly, we don't know just what to report as most of what transpired was 'way over our heads. All we know for certain is that after far too much discussion over protocol, the election was finally held and '58 and '59 Thunderbirds voted out. But because the members involved had participated in the voting, someone pointed out that this was illegal according to our by-laws, and Chairman Brooks ruled the election "no contest", with the entire matter being shelved until next meeting.

In view of the fact that we had a large number of outside guests present, we felt that our Club was exposing itself to ridicule with all the long-drawn out arguments and constant interruptions by a small group of dissidents. In fact, some people were seen to leave during the intermission. Granted that this is a most important matter with memberships to be terminated no matter which way the issue is resolved, we had expected to see a better show of harmony than we did. We just hope that the people involved really have the best interests of the Club in mind.

On the advice of President Don we are terminating further discussion in these pages by either faction. Don believes the issues have been clearly stated and enough space given in the past two months. Instead, we are printing the following article by Maralee Houston, whose interest in the welfare of our group should go unquestioned.

Dear Members:

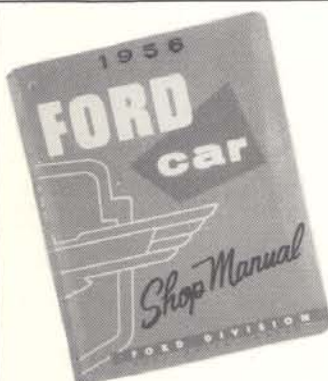
I am sure I speak for most of you when I say that we like the idea of our own Thunderbird Club - a club for our own personal car - where we can acquire new friends, go and see new places, and just have a good time together. The BATOC will be a great club IF and when we get on our feet and get squared away. Sure, there will be disagreements - no two people can get together without disagreeing once in awhile, let alone some 60-odd. Express your opinion. Fine. But if the outcome isn't all you could have wished, accept it as an adult - don't make a federal case of it. You all know what I am trying to say.

Take the big issue at hand - voting on '58 and '59 T-Birds. So much bickering has occurred that everyone is all mixed up. We don't know whether to vote for the car . . . the person . . . or the way a friend tells us. I'd like to make it clear right here that I'm not trying to get you to vote my way. I'm not voting - my

husband is. I just want to suggest that after the May meeting and its election, we accept the outcome and forget the fact that it may not have been the way we would have preferred. I know this matter was voted upon once before, but this time there's a difference - four of our well-liked, active members now have four-passenger Birds, and like the Club so much that they want to remain in it. Or at least they did - until they saw how much furor they had evoked. Now they're not sure they should try to stay - we haven't given them much reason to think so. The abuse they've had to take isn't quite fair. I say, let's vote and get the thing over with . . . everyone is getting tired of the whole business. This could split our fine Club right down the middle unless both factions try to be a little more understanding of the other point of view. Let's act like adults. We must make a decision, then stick by it - not bring it up again and again. I'm sure you'll all agree with this premise.

SERVICE AND REPAIR MANUALS

Now you can obtain the regular Ford Shop Manual covering your model Thunderbird right here in the Bay Area! These manuals are chock full of interesting, informative photos, drawings and text explaining in detail the workings of your car. A must for every Bird owner who likes to tinker with his own vehicle.



7098-55	1955 CAR SHOP MANUAL for servicing all 1955 Ford Passenger Cars and the New Thunderbird	\$3.50
7098-56	1956 CAR SHOP MANUAL for servicing all 1956 Ford Passenger Cars and Thunderbird	\$3.50
7098-57	1957 CAR SHOP MANUAL for 1957 Ford Passenger Cars and Thunderbird	\$4.75

AVAILABLE AT POLYPRINTS BOX 3674, RINCON ANNEX SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

Our Constitution and By-Laws are in sorry shape, as evinced at our last meeting. Who's to blame? Few of us had any prior experience in writing up a Constitution and By-Laws. At least the effort was made and an attorney went over them for legal flaws. Even he didn't see the contradictions each page would bring. Errors have been made - they should be expected in a growing organization. The thing to do is to correct them as they crop up, not just sit back and gripe about them. You can't start a business or club from scratch and expect everything to go smoothly from then on. There are bound to be obstacles.

A lot of us are unhappy with the way some recent events have turned out. Well, don't sit back and gripe - especially if you've never helped to put one on. There are problems and work involved - get in and help make the next one a success. You'll be surprised how much satisfaction this will provide, whereas griping gets you nowhere. No one person should be blamed - no one person can do the job.

People from other car clubs are watching to see how our Club turns out. No one person is going to get all the credit if all turns out well; no one person will be blamed if it doesn't. I'd like to think, five years from now, that I had a hand in making this Club a success, not a flop. How about you?

Let's not have any more accusations or hard feelings. We all have made mistakes, but at least we are trying. If we err, so what? Nobody is perfect. Let's pitch in and try to help out with the problem, not condemn the member who is trying to do a good job and occasionally flubs up.

Buell AIR HORNS TO FIT ANY POCKETBOOK



COMMANDO-15C

All brass-choose plated horn with 1 1/2" bell. Has "trillion tone" - the largest and loudest of the Commando series. The latest gas powered horn. Complete with control valve. Shipped and can in box.

\$39.50

Tired of being bullied about on the highways? Tired of taking to the ditch to avoid careless drivers? Then here's the answer . . . an inexpensive (\$14.95 to \$39.50) but effective air horn, one made especially for sport cars. No bulky tanks, expensive valves, gauges or special equipment is required. The secret is gas operation. A small can of freon attaches inconspicuously beneath the hood or fender. This can maintains a pressure of from 95 to 100 lbs pressure throughout its life. When the gas supply is exhausted - hundreds of good loud blasts later - the old can can be unscrewed and a new one installed in a matter of seconds. Replacement can is \$1.60.

Cole Industries
P. O. BOX 2611, SAN FRANCISCO

THE BIRDLAND SPOTLIGHT IS ON



MARA LEE HOUSTON

Here's to a member too long unsung in this column for meritorious service beyond the call of duty. Perhaps it was because of her gender that we tended to overlook the important role she plays in the welfare of our Club. Even at this late date she IS the first woman to be so honored, and that admission, coming from an old roue - I mean philologist - like myself, is inexcusable.

Do you realize that of last year's Board of Officers, she is the only one to be retained this year? Unsung by us she may have been, but the rest of you considered her services so essential that she was again elected one of our officers, although in a slightly different capacity (more work). And, according to no less a person than Prexy Don himself, she's getting better all the time.

This gal really puts out for us. Probably no one except husband Bill really knows how much time she devotes to doing her job the way she thinks it should be done. It's enough to make a coolie holler uncle. There is definitely much more to her job than the two hours we see her at a monthly meeting. There's this paper to fold and mail to some 100 odd members and pseudo-members. And when I say odd, I mean to place myself at the head of the list. The prospective members require a filing system, as MaraLee makes darned sure that none of them gets more than his stipulated three consecutive copies.

Then there's screening of new members to be done, insurance policies to be checked out, proxy votes, Committee meetings, birthdays to be catalogued, a column to write for this paper (always on time, I might add), plus numberless tasks we don't pretend to know about. And how about the way she can remember and call out the names of guests at a meeting! Why, I could practice saying Tourgouitsky for thirty minutes and not be able to do as well as MaraLee did spontaneously.

To think that there are some members who claim they are too busy to help out once a year with a rally or something.

Getting material on this paragon's background was virtually impossible. Her inherent modesty forbade her helping out in the preparation of this article, which, incidentally, she told us positively NOT to write. So, with absolutely no cooperation from her we did learn that she is one of twin girls born 26 years ago right here in Oakland. We have no idea where she went to school. We contacted Contra Costa School for Wayward Girls (because some of our best friends came from there), but they had never even heard of MaraLee.

About six years ago, young Bill Houston recognized MaraLee's sterling qualities and began courting our heroine. When she knew Bill was coming over, she used to go to her butcher and ask for two "special" steaks for her boyfriend. A

year later they were married, and on returning from their honeymoon, they stopped at the same butcher shop for more steaks. MaraLee proudly introduced the new husband those steaks had helped her capture. "That's the first time anybody ever accused me of playing Cupid," remarked the butcher. The anti-climax to this tale is that Bill really likes hamburger better than steak!

MaraLee first heard about the incipient Thunderbird Club from busy Faye Edwards who has always been our No. 1 proselyter. The Houstons were among the original founders of the Club and were in attendance the night the Charter was drawn up.

Her daytime job is with an insurance company, and if she works as hard for them as she does for us, her salary should be no less than \$600 per month.

We're so lucky to have this remarkable gal on our team.

NEED PARTS FOR YOUR THUNDERBIRD ?

Reg Montgomery, Parts Manager, takes a keen interest in the problems of T-Bird owners, viz., 'How to obtain parts'. His department is open weekdays from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., and from 8 a.m. to noon on Saturdays. As an added feature, Reg maintains a record of T-Bird parts in stock by each Bay Area Ford dealer, and often can supply that hard-to-get part without having to send to Dearborn for it.

25 to 32% DISCOUNT TO BATOC MEMBERS UPON PRESENTATION OF MEMBERSHIP CARD



HOWARD EDDY MOTORS

2395 WILLOW PASS ROAD
CONCORD, CALIFORNIA

BAY AREA Thunderbird OWNERS CLUB

DON BROOKS President
DICK STAPLES Vice-President
LARRY FARRELL Treasurer
MARA LEE HOUSTON Corresponding Secretary
EDNA NEISS Recording Secretary

ROGER NEISS, Editor
45 Ecker Street, San Francisco, YUkon 2-6268

Contributions must be in the Editor's office by the 15th in order to be printed in that month.



"Took your top down early this year, didn't you?"

POTPOURRI . . .

Back from an extended tour (8,000 mi.) of these United States and Canada are the doting Horsfalls - doting over their latest acquisition, i.e., a '59 Hardtop Thunderbird. Flying to Chicago in late March, they picked up the new Bird and pointed it south to Miami; thence to Washington, D.C., New York, Montreal, Niagara Falls and all points between. They're so nuts about the '59 and the way it handles that we've heard talk they may buy another one and name them 'His' and 'Hers'. . . Because of the prevailing "BIG BIRD" matter too little attention is being given the upcoming meeting with the Southern California Chapter of the Thunderbird Club of America. The end of May will be here before we know it and you'll be caught with your billfold flat. Even your Editor has little to add to what's already been said, except that John Russell, who plays "Lawman" on ABC-TV, is a popular member of our neighboring club to the south, a fact which ought to appeal to the ladies of our group. . . Bill Houston won a beautiful trophy recently by scoring over 400 points in safety checks and work done on the Houston "Blue Bird". Bill is presently serving his third term as Treasurer of the East Oakland Road Gents Car Club. . . This is news? Skip Riggs collected another trophy at the recent Stockton Auto Races - but not for racing, you may be sure. . . WANTED - a clean '55 Bird by A. Horsfall who has a buyer. . . Also WANTED - another '55 T-Bird. Call Allen Graef, Montrose 1-1076. . . The "old-timers" shown on page one are Edna N. and Joe White. Did you guess 'em? . . . Macabre Thought - Are we about to refute the membership of our fighting vice-president (the 4-passenger T-Bird matter) just as he was about to lead us to financial independence? Which reminds us - how's your collection of rummage doing? Dick needs only a little more stuff in order to go ahead with the Rummage Sale.

Two finishes for Thunderbirds -
Lacquer and Liquor.



Dear Editor:

I keep sending in jokes and cartoons and you never print them. If you don't use some of my material in the April paper please return it as I have other irons in the fire.

(Sd) A. Contributor

Dear Mr. Contributor:

I considered your material very carefully and herewith advise you to put it with your other irons.

- Editor

NOTE: Seriously, many contributions are sent in which do not qualify for reprinting. Remember - such material MUST be apropos to automobiling and not too risque, AND - it must be received by the 15th of the month.