

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

Volume 2, Number 5

MAY, 1959

### ACTIVITIES REPORT \_\_\_\_\_ by ANDY LARSEN

My Fellow-Thunder-Birders:

With half our members now working on future activities, I hope we can talk the rest of you into coming out to enjoy them. The MG Owners Club of Oakland invited us to attend their Question and Answer Rally and quite a few accepted—13, in fact. (They only had 12 themselves!) The day was a huge success and even those who didn't bag a trophy had a good time. The change to daylight-saving time fouled up a few cars, but all arrived safely at Mt. Diablo before the day was over. The Fun-Khana or regular Gymkhana had been considered off-limits to Thunderbirds— at least whenever any of our members tried their hand at it they didn't fare too well. But one of our lads got into his little white Bird and showed up everyone in the MG outing. Took 10 points out of a possible 10, that's all! Then, to top off his day, he made another 10 in the rally to complete a perfect day. Congratulations to handsome (and eligible) Bob Perry! An MG came in second, but then followed a long line of Thunderbirds: Dick Staples in a "lumbering" (?) '59 model; Gene Andrade and Bill Houston. How about that Dick Staples and his Big Bird! Didn't think he could do it!

The Piedmont Parade proved a slow-moving affair. Lucky that none of our Birds over-heated. Most of us saw parts of the Piedmont hills we had never seen before, and I'm not referring to the pectoral attainments of some of the passengers. There were 12 T-Birds and a like number of comely girls aged from 8 to 28. Quite an age span. Of course, we bachelors got the right

ones. The right ones being from 8 to 80. Had our first casualty that afternoon, however. In the parade from Jack London Square Richard Milani wasn't able to stop fast enough to avoid crashing into the back of a sound truck. (Ed. Note: Bet he was looking at his beautiful passenger.) I hope this will be our last casualty. Let's all be extra careful and make sure that it is.

When you get a phone call from one of our girls asking for a little help on a committee, I hope you'll say "Yes". The June Social, for instance, will need a lot of cooperation in order to be put over BIG.

Like to see new faces at the Activities meetings. Not that we're tired of the old ones, but new blood always seems to increase enthusiasm and ideas. Right now, we want five or six members to work with Mr. Riggs and myself on the T-Bird sponsored Concourse mentioned at the May 5th meeting. It will be coming off in August and we'd like to get the paper work disposed of as soon as possible. You can call me (Lars) at KE 6-1244. (Ed. Note: If a girl answers, hang up. He can talk to you anytime.)

The July 4th Picnic is to be a family affair and we're going to sell tickets for this one. The MG Club has been invited and we want you to bring your friends. We will need to know how many people to plan for, however. All kinds of games for young and old. Bring your own food. Maybe four or five can get together and cook up something.

### MEMO from MEMBERSHIP \_\_\_\_\_ by MARALEE HOUSTON

Our next Membership/Technical Committee Meeting will be June 30th (8:00 pm) at 3452—35th Ave. (Apt. 6), Oakland. Please note that this is a NEW address. All members presently on these committees and anyone wishing to be should attend.

**PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS** — If you have had your Guest Card signed at three of our events (one business and two socials) you are eligible to come before the above-mentioned committees for car and insurance policy inspection. If you have not received a Guest Card prior to this time you will receive one when we send you the third copy of our Club paper. 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.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW MEMBERS** — Accepted during April were:

Bob Cole, 3452—35th Ave., Oak., Apt. 12, KE 6-2926.  
Joseph and Ruth Gonzales, 36933 Niles Blvd., Niles, Calif., SY 7-2894.

Accepted at our May meeting were:

Bob White, 1944 Sutter Ave., San Pablo, BE 2-3267.  
Ernest Silva, 1512 University Ave., Apt. 10, Berkeley, Calif., TH 5-7090.

**CHANGES OF ADDRESS FOR THE FOLLOWING:**  
Mel & Barbara Talley, Rt. 1, RFD Box 310, Newark, Calif., SY 3-2276.  
Dail Moffett, 1425 Oak St., Apt. 20, Oakland, GL 2-4553.

I regret at this writing I do not have a complete list of our guests at our last general business meeting. However, I want to let them know they were welcome and we hope we see them at future activities. One guest we do recall was a special one from Southern California — Martha Nicoll who was a welcome addition. Hope she enjoyed our meeting as much as we enjoyed having her with us.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to the following:

June 2 — Larry Doan                      June 22 — Lew Edwards

### WEDDING BELLS



A "little Bird" of a different sort tells us that one of our eligible bachelors and his favorite navigator have decided to feather a nest along about October 3. A tip of our sports cap to Warren Clarke and pretty Jackie Andrade.

### ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

#### MAY 30 & 31 — Santa Maria Tour, 4:00 am . . .

and the long-heralded meeting with Southern California's T-Bird Club. Leaving Hy's Drive-In at 4 a.m., best time to be on the highways and by-ways. A small group led by Art Horsfall is leaving somewhat later. We should have a big turnout for this (see story on back page). Estimated five hours driving time.

#### JUNE 5 — General Business Meeting, 7:30 pm . . .

celebrating our first year of existence. Note that this is a Friday instead of Tuesday. Also, for this month only, the meeting takes place on "THE SHOWBOAT" off Jack London Square. There will be a very brief business meeting, followed by dinner (\$2.75 a plate) and dancing to live music. Shirt and tie mandatory, fellows.

#### JUNE 7 — Pebble Beach Auto Races, 7:00 am . . .

Our second Annual Tour to Monterey. Those who attended last year know what a good time is to be had and we should do even better this time around. Bring lunch and lots of beer. We want to see most of the races, hence the early hour. Hy's Drive-In. If you have binoculars, bring 'em.

#### JUNE 14 — Moving of Rummage for Sale June 15th . . .

If you have anything left to be picked up, call Dick Staples or ANYBODY! (TE 6-1688)

#### JUNE 15 — Rummage Sale . . . at St. George Hall, 2436 Grove Street in Oakland.

#### JUNE 21 — Mt. Tamalpais Tour . . .

We've been on this side of the Bay so long we want to get a look at the other side for a change.

*NOTE: Shortly after submitting his column for May, Andy had the bad luck to suffer a crippling back ailment which will probably involve surgery and a long stay in the hospital. How about a deluge of cards and visits for a really fine member who is certainly going to be missed around here! Hurry up and get well, Andy. We miss you already.*

## T-BIRDS vs. MGs

On April 26th the BATOC was invited to run with the MG Owners Club of Oakland on their first Rall-Khana, a Royal Coachman rally to Turtle Rock Ranch culminating in a picnic lunch. Apologies were given for a "tight" course, but T-Birders prevailed just the same. Competing against 12 MGs and two Sprites, Bob Perry scored 20 out of a possible 20 in his Bird. An MG was second, followed by Dick Staples in his over-sized '59, Gene Andrade and Bill Houston! Not bad for a car that is so lightly regarded by the sports car gentry. All BATOC participants had a whale of a good time, and were pleased as punch to have come out so well against a car that IS accepted as a true sports car.

## RUMMAGE SALE

The date has finally been set. It's June 15th, only a few days away. The place will be St. George Hall at 2436 Grove Street in Oakland. Doors open at 9 a.m. so this is positively the last call for goods you may wish to donate. Bring what you can to every meeting or event you attend from here on and turn it over to Dick Staples or Don Brooks. If what you have is too big to toss into the trunk of your T-Bird, call one of the ladies listed below and arrangements will be made to pick up what you have.

Much help will be needed to transport the rummage from 21 Grand to St. George Hall on Sunday, June 14th. Volunteers, please heed. Call Lorraine Lewis (KE 3-7430), Donna Brooks (now KE 2-3019) or Bev Staples (TE 6-1688) if you'd like to help.

There will be a private sale for Club members on Sunday afternoon, the 14th.

## WHEN WE WERE YOUNG



WORLD RULING SEA DOG



HEIR TO COFFEE FORTUNE?

## FROM THE EDITOR'S SOAP BOX

That fellar Don Brooks is even more persuasive than many of us surmised. Besides getting beauteous Donna to say "yes", this month he just about convinced the membership that we are all illegitimate members of a spurious organization. Following months of haggling over the 2-Seated Thunderbirds, now Donsy-Boy comes up with facts and figures to prove that, due to conflicting paragraphs in our By-Laws, the amendment which tended to debar the Big Birds was illegal to begin with. Moreover, he contends that the legality of his own tenure in office is open to question. Frankly, we're so confused right now we don't know if we're putting out this sheet for Thunderbird or Corvette people. All we know for sure is we're somewhat taken aback by this inference to our bastardy inasmuch as our forebears are no longer around to defend us. For nigh onto half a century we had deemed our lineage to be on a par with the Windsors. To find it a moot topic at this late date is somewhat disconcerting.

Following a suggestion by Skip Riggs that the 2-Seated Thunderbird matter be shelved for six months, it was finally decided that the thing to do was to re-

verse the By-Laws now and worry about just which Thunderbirds would be eligible for membership later. So now we can go on to more pleasant things.

Our appreciation goes out to all for the pacific atmosphere prevailing at the May 2nd meeting when some thirteen guests were in attendance, including Martha Nicoll, gracious representative of the Southern California Thunderbird Club. By the way, if any of you are ever in the environs of Hollywood around the first Saturday of the month, an invitation has been extended to drop in on one of their meetings. The spot is the Nickodell Restaurant at Selma Avenue and Argyle Street, just two blocks away from famed Hollywood and Vine.

## NORTH AND SOUTH T-BIRD GROUPS MEET DECORATION DAY

Bright and early on Friday, May 29th, four intrepid BATOC members will be leaving for Santa Maria down the California Coast and a trysting with our Southern California Thunderbird Club neighbors. This group will be dwarfed by between 20 and 30 LA cars - until our Saturday segment shows up to join in the fun and frivolity. Southern Cal is making an "Economy Run" of their tour, having scheduled side trips to make this a 240-mile trip for them, approximately the same distance we will have to traverse. Our meeting site is beautiful Rick's in Santa Maria, a mammoth motel complete with swimming pool and other accoutrements to make travel stops so much fun.

After the Friday evening rendezvous, both clubs will make a joint tour to Santa Barbara for the road races Saturday afternoon. That evening we all gather for a "Victory Banquet" at which time trophies will be presented the winners in the So-Cal Economy Run. Sound like fun?

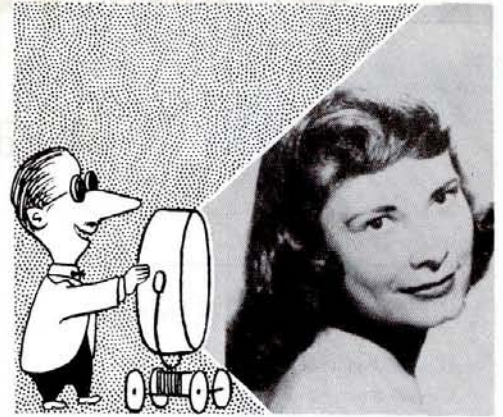
## LOOKING FOR A GOOD GARAGE?

Remember Bert Melberg, the super mechanic at Cirmele Ford who was supposed to give individual service to any BATOC car brought in? Somehow that seldom worked out; he was usually tied up on a job he couldn't leave just when you wanted him. Now, however, he is in a position where he can give you the benefit of his skill and experience on Thunderbirds. Recently he became affiliated with Gene's Automotive Service, 3518-35th Avenue, Oakland (AN 1-6973) where he will definitely be the one to work on your Bird when you bring it in. Special low prices to members are being set up to encourage our business.

## BIRDLAND BANTER . . .

Our Club has again been selected to transport beautiful ladies in the fall "Parade of Lights" in conjunction with the advent of the football season at the U of C. But don't rush. They're not making the sign-up just yet. . . Back among us after a brief honeymoon are Mel Talley and new bride Barbara. . . Excited about the "Hawaiian Luau" that Lorraine Lewis and cohorts are cooking up? Sounds like just the ticket to lure back some of our stay-at-homes. You probably know the details better than we do. To be held on a Saturday night, Hawaiian get-up is obligatory (Anyone know where I can get a lei?). Demure Dottie Farrell of the sumptuous curves may give a hulu in authentic costume. . . Speaking of members who have been "omniabsent" for some time, wha' happint to the Shidellers, Pratts, Jack Enright, Larry Doan, K. Jacuzzi, Louise Koonce, Mid (Town) Riggs (sister of Milton), Benny Carroll, the Semlers and Lela Mirgon? Please drop in on us once in awhile. . . When Bob Cole purchased the Prichard '56, it marked the first time that a car stayed in the Club after changing owners. . . Domestic drama in a Chronicle want-ad: Placed by Dick McLain, 2727 Jackson Street - "Thunderbird, '55. Pregnant wife says Bird must go before stork arrives. Lovingly cared for, sorrowfully sold." . . . Did you guess lissome Faye Edwards and Don the Gob in our "When We Were Young" game? . . . We kinda miss vibrant Joannie Prichard, don't you?

## BIRDLAND'S SPOTLIGHT IS ON



## . . . ANOTHER LADYBIRD

It has long been the editorial policy of this "rag" to spotlight those individuals within our organization whose contributions have been of merit yet who don't seem to get the recognition they deserve. One such individual is Miss - ah - Mrs. Rosemarie Volpatti (No offense meant, Rich!)

For the information of the members not aware of it, Rosemarie is the right-hand gal to MaraLee of Membership. You will probably not recognize our Ladybird at the general meetings, for she is always buried nose-deep in large plastic sheaths, chockful of the forms, figures and other paraphernalia requisite to an efficient membership committee.

Your chances of spotting our gal are vastly improved at the Club's monthly activities - Rich and Rosemarie are always in attendance and participation.

Rosemarie is a native of the City of Oaks, as are so many of our members, first entering the population on November 5, 1938. Her later years were spent at Roosevelt Junior and Fremont High Schools. Active on the School Paper and Yearbook; a member of the synchronized swimming team, Rosemarie still managed to maintain a high scholastic average. Although the busy Miss planned a further education in art, the attentions of five younger members of the family gained the decision. Upon graduation, Rosemarie was hired by the Oakland Bank of Commerce - a job which she remained with for two years.

It was then that our active Miss entered the bonds of Holy Matrimony with Richard Volpatti. A rather unusual honeymoon followed - the evening was spent at the Oakland Auto Show.

Today, Rosemarie is employed by Vactronics, a television tube manufacturer, as a bookkeeper. She and Rich are partial to swimming and horseback-riding - that is, when time permits.

Once again, we pay homage to Faye Edwards for introducing another valuable member.

Keep up the good work, Rosemarie. . .

- by Dail Moffett

The life of every gathering she was. . . The MG Club is willing to sponsor us in the Northern Calif. Sports Car Assn. How do you feel about it? . . . We can personally vouch for the kind of service the Howard Eddy Ford people in Concord offer BATOC members. They obtained some rare parts (which had to come from Dearborn) in one week's time. Any other dealer would have required from three to four weeks. Give Skip's protege a trial and find out for yourself. . . What do you think of Birdland's abbreviated format? There are two reasons for it - a slacking off of contributed material and what does come in is late. Anyway, near as we can figure, all but about half a dozen members have been attending recent meetings and therefore know as much about happenings as we do. Maybe more, cuz you're smarter than we are. There is at least one advantage to the present size. As our Clubhead Don will be quick to point out, it leaves less room for the Editor's 1920 style of humor.