

What's New in Birdland

Volume 2, Number 6

June 1959

ACTIVITIES REPORT _____ by BOB GROWDEN

(Ed. Note - Most of you will recall that our Andy was bothered by a bad back as last month's Birdland was being printed. He's still ailing, in fact, entered the Peralta Hospital on June 14th for a spinal operation. As it will be some time before he can resume his old pastime (i.e., chasing nurses), he'd certainly appreciate hearing from all of you - in person or via the Contemporary "Get-Well" Card approach. After a week or so, he'll be convalescing at 223 Orange Street in Oakland and will appreciate word from you more than ever - no nurses. If everything goes according to plan, Ol' Hardtop should be back at home around the First of the month.)

Andy - where are you? When you asked for a volunteer, I should have remembered what my drill instructor said, "Never volunteer for anything". We all hope that you have a complete and speedy recovery from your illness.

The Miss Oakland Parade was a success. There were 14 beautiful - (Under "woman" in Roget's Thesaurus it says, "Woman, N., Woman, She, Female, Petticoat, Skirt, Moll, Broad. We took the usual motorcade route through most of the East Bay. Starting at Lake Merritt, we progressed through downtown Oakland to Berkeley, back to MacArthur and out to

90th Street. Then we worked our way back to Lake Merritt where we disbanded and had lunch.

After the parade I found out how the Farrells afforded the renovation of their '55 Bird. Have you ever seen them with their motion picture camera? Well, they go around filming YOU in very embarrassing situations (I found out the hard way). As yet I haven't heard how much it will cost me. So beware.

Softball was the main event at the May 10th Beach Party. In second and third places were the wind and sand. If you awoke that Sunday morning and looked out the window to see that heavy overcast, you probably turned over mumbling, "No beach party today." BUT you were wrong - 18 Birds showed up at the Baracutha on Fishermen's Wharf and all had a good time.

June 7th was a beautiful day for the races at Monterey but only 7 Birds were present. A trip through the Old Custom House before the races proved educational. From Fishermen's Wharf in Monterey I again missed a turn and after five miles prospect Jack McNeill turned me around and led us back to the gate. The Corvettes, by the way, didn't have a chance this year, top honors going to Porsche and Mercedes.

The Hawaiian Night has been set ahead until late in July for a number of reasons. To select one at random, Maralee Houston has a friend who is just dying to go but wouldn't look nice in Hawaiian getup as she is enroute.

JULY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- JUNE 30 (Tues)** - Membership/Technical Meeting, Apt. 7 at 7:30 p.m. - 3451 - 35th Ave., Oakland. For prospective members and other interested parties.
- JULY 4 (Sat)** - Old-Fashioned Picnic, 9:00 a.m. - Elderberry Park (½ mi. east of Niles, Calif. on Niles Canyon Road) Swimming, Dancing, Bar-B-Que Pits, Kiddie Playground and Games for all. A "Gimmick" Rally to be the piece-de-resistance, with plaques and trophies. Tickets were sent you weeks ago. Send your money in NOW, returning the tickets you will not use. Better yet, help the Club Exchequer grow by buying all the tickets. Bring nourishment if you don't want to go hungry all day.
- JULY 7 (Tues)** - General Membership Meeting, 7:30, Art's Buffet, 40th & Broadway, Oakland. Board meeting precedes - 6:30.
- JULY 19 (Sun)** - Bar-B-Que at Chas. Krug's Winery in St. Helena. Meet at Jack London Square, foot of Broadway in Oakland, 10 a.m. May be deferred one week. We furnish the meat and cook it, with Chas. Krug pouring and supplying B-B-Q pits. Any volunteers for Chef?
- JULY 21 (Tues)** - Activities Meeting, 7:30 p.m. at Brooks Manor, 3451 - 35th Ave., Oakland. Follow "Manager" signs to very door.

MEMO from MEMBERSHIP

_____ by MARALEE HOUSTON

We were happy to welcome five very enthusiastic prospects at our Celebration Dinner and Business Meeting June 5th. Sounds as though we will be seeing more of the following:

Frances Giffin Ken Keyser
Victoria Thorley Bill Bosak
Dorothy Woodyard (Ooh-la-la)

We also had the chance at last to meet Roger's Girl-Friday, Lyda Seamans, with whom many of us have spoken on the telephone without ever having met personally.

Must say I was disappointed at the poor turnout of Charter members for this Celebration Dinner, since it was for them that the special event was scheduled. We still have 26 of the original 33 Charter members on our roster, but only an insignificant 12 cars was represented at the dinner. It was reassuring, however, to note the way the newer members are showing up for anything and everything.

BUSINESS CARDS - We now have our very attractive business cards (thanks to R. N. for all the work he put into them). These will be passed out to the members at the July 7th business meeting.

MEMBERSHIP ADDRESS LIST - What with the Brooks moving to a new location and taking half our membership with them, we have several address changes to make. Instead of listing them all at this time, a complete new list is in the process of being made and should be ready for you at the July business meeting.

MEMBERSHIP & TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING - will be June 30th at Richard Staples, 3451 - 35th Avenue, Apt. No. 7, Oakland. Note that new address. The time: 8:00 p.m. sharp. Prospective members who have their Guest Cards signed three times should be present. Be sure to bring said Card as well as car insurance policy for inspection.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY - JULY . . .

7/6 Frank Ficker 7/12 Owen Lewis
7/7 Russell Pratt 7/20 Donna Brooks
7/11 Richard Milani 7/23 Joe White

MARY MURPHY

This pixyish colleen is Pat Nagle's younger sister whom many will remember meeting at a Horsfall Smorgasbord last year. Miss Murphy was runner-up in the Miss San Francisco Contest held at Golden Gate Park on May 24.



TOGETHERNESS AT SANTA MARIA

On May 29, 30 and 31 the Southern and Northern California T-Bird Owners met at Rick's Rancho, a 200-unit motor hotel in Santa Maria hard by famous Pismo Beach. Thirty-two people from Smogville joined with 20 from Fogville to take over the mammoth layout which featured every conceivable form of entertainment. It would almost be quicker to list the things one couldn't do. Rick's is a veritable town within a town and we didn't so much as start our engine until the day we got ready to go home.

Right on the premises one could find: Walking (that figures), Swimming, Sun-Bathing, Ping Pong, Fireplace Lounging, Television, Chess, Checkers, Cocktail-ing, Croquet, Shuffleboard (indoor and outdoor varieties), Wining, Dining, Girling (we were in our element), Bird Watching (they really had Birds of their own - in an aviary!), Thunderbird Watching, Tip-pling, Dancing to Live Music, Card-Play-ing, Backgammon, and Beer for our Clam-type "Galaxie" owner, Dick Nagle, who is starting a petition to kick all '55, '56 and '57 Birds out of the Club. Cola and ice-vending machines were everywhere for the convenience of those who wanted to "set 'em up" for the others. That included just about all the Southern people who were nothing if not hospitable.

Speaking of R. Nagle, under the affluence of incohol, he expressed vehement incredulity at the fabulous mileage claims of our Southern neighbors for their Birds during the Economy Run to Santa Maria (28 mpg and up). Pat finally left for her motel room when the polemics became too heated. When her lord and master came trudging in hours later, she gave him Holy Ned for drinking too many cans of Olympia, and risking an incident by arguing with new-found friends.

"You've been hitting the suds again," we heard her thunder through the motel's walls. "And don't deny it - I can smell it on your breath."

"I didn't drink a drop," defended our hero. "I was eating frogs legs and what you smell is the hops."

The food at Rick's was exceptionally good, yet moderately priced. Sometimes,

when we've gone to these overnight host-leries and are more or less forced to partake of their fare, the food available would gag a buzzard. Steaks that taste like the business-end of a fly-swatter are the rule rather than the exception. Not so here. Next time you honeymoon, our recommenda-tion is that you give Rick's serious consideration.

The Southern Cal folk are en rapport with us in nearly every particular. Their members include engineers and aircraft workers, insurance men, bachelors and bachelorettes. Their President, Ray Davis, is a talented post-prandial speaker even as our own Clubhead Don Brooks. They have witty fellows like Joe White and an Editor who is even prettier than your own. On their Birds, they decry the use of furbelows, customizing moderately, if at all; add functional gadgets like oil and battery gauges; and maintain their cars and engines much the same as we do. Blocking off exhaust ends is a popular pastime for them, too. Four-passenger Birds are admitted to their ranks, but their owners must be able to take the ribbing when their behemoths are out-maneu-tered by the more nimble one-seaters.

Our own '57 Bluebird was bedecked with brand-new "Ed-Bird" hubcaps (of Edsel and Thunderbird components) which appeared to be the hit of the show. So much favorable comment was heard that we began to fear some kleptomaniac might make off with them during the night. We didn't sleep well after that. Might as well have climbed into the chandelier - we slept so light.

It was regrettable that not one of our own lustrous Board members saw fit to be in attendance. In lieu of an official spokesman, Art Horsfall was called upon and gave an impromptu talk before the Saturday night "Victory Dinner" gather-ing of about fifty members of the combined clubs. Art kept it succinct, but it was a monument to sincerity which expressed our feelings perfectly. Including our group's thanks for having been invited, Art said he hoped it was only the first of many such get-togethers, and he gave a blanket invitation to all So-Cal visitors to drop in on any of our General Business



"WE SOUTHERN CAL GIRLS LOVE TO RIDE WITH THE TOP DOWN!"



Meetings whenever in the Bay Area.

Club members who made the trip be-sides those mentioned were Maxine and Dale Horsfall, Mel and Barbara Talley, Ruth and Joe Gonzalez, beauteous Lucy Sanchez (make room, Donna) and her sister Ann, Donna Sell, Maxine Nunes, Paul Tanzillo, Ken Keyser, Jack Taylor and Lorraine and Owen Lewis who were vaca-tioning in the Southland. Jack Taylor, the Horsfalls and the Lewises fit into the mixed gathering especially well, the former on the bongos and the others giving with Calypso dances (see pics).

Only "casualty" noted was Lucy San-chez who ran afoul of the law when she essayed passing a couple of other T-Birds on the return trip from the auto



YOUR HANDSOME VISAGE ON YOUR NEW DRIVER'S LICENSE

In a new law enacted September 11, 1957, the Dept. of Motor Vehicles now reproduces the operator's photo on every Driver's Permit issued. Some of you may already have one of the new ones, but the rest of you are due for some surprises when next you make application for renewal. Strange things have indeed been happening at Sacramento in the last year or so.

For instance, the "incentive" feature, which "rewards" drivers with perfect or near-perfect records by allowing them to renew their licenses for longer terms - up to as much as five years. Conversely, it also penalizes those who have two or more convictions of the moving traffic law by reducing their renewal privileges to two years or less.

The following information is being printed as an aid in understanding some of the current provisions in effect under the new rulings:

"1. RENEWALS - Driver licenses renewed shall expire on the birthdate of the applicant in the 5th year following expiration of the old license.

"2. TWO YEAR TERM - If the applicant has more than one moving traffic violation in the two years preceding application, the license will expire on the birthdate in the second year following application.

"3. ORIGINAL (THREE YEAR) TERM - Every original driver license shall expire on the anniversary of the date of birth of the applicant in the third year following date of application. EXCEPTION: Two year term if two or more moving violations (in the two years preceding application).

"ORIGINAL (LATE RENEWAL) - If the renewal is not applied for within 30 days after expiration of the old California license, the application is then considered to be an original application. All tests, including a driving test, must be given."

Applications for renewal may be made as early as six months before the expiration date. Get yours out right now and see if you're not eligible for a trip down to your nearest Dept. of Motor Vehicles branch.

To show that the language describing the terms does not mean a license shall be issued for "five years", "three years", or "two years", the Division of Drivers' Licenses explains that to find the expiration date of a "5-Year Term" renewed license, add four years to the birthdate which follows the expiration of the old license.

Examples:

A license expires January 30, 1959. Next birthday is April 15, 1960. Renewed license is good until April 15, 1964.

A license expires January 30, 1959. Next birthday is January 20, 1960. Renewed license is good until January 20, 1964.

For a "Two-Year Term" license, reduced because of two or more convictions following moving traffic violations within the past two years, add one year to birthday which follows the expiration of the old license.

And, if you forgot to apply for a new permit within 30 days after the expiration date shown on your old license, add two years to the birthdate which follows application date.

A pretty potent reason for watching your driving habits, as well as the expiration date on your present license.

Our thanks to recent guest, Ruth Ives, of the Department of Motor Vehicles for supplying us with the foregoing information.

aces in Santa Barbara. Tired of trailing the others mile after mile, Luscious Lucy passed 'em both at 70-plus mph. Whereupon three motorcycle policemen who had been trailing, flagged down all three. Even Lucy's obvious charms were unequal to talking the minions of the law out of the tickets.

It was otherwise a wonderful weekend and those of you who didn't go missed a heck of a good time. Our cost was about fifty bucks in cold cash - we call it that because we can't keep money long enough to make it warm - but it was worth every penny of it.

Thanks to Owen for the many flash pictures he took at his own expense for members of both Clubs.



17 years wed and just as lovely today . . .

WHEN WE WERE YOUNGER

{No relation to the} {Younger Brothers}

We doubt you'll be able to identify both these prominent Club members, but give it the old college try anyway. Answers appear on page four.

Wouldn't you like to surprise your loved one by having his or her picture appear in this space? If so, bring the pic to the next general meeting and slip it to Ye Ed beneath the table.



Once a Mason & Dixon Bluecoat

RUMMAGE SALE

The Rummage Sale is history. That's being dramatic.

The merchandise was trucked to the site of the sale on Sunday, June 14, and sold Monday, June 15, largely through the efforts of people owning 2-seated Thunderbirds. That's pathetic. What happened to all the owners of single-seaters? Don't they care any more about the well-being of the Club?

To be precise, we have four '59 Birds in our group. Various members of the families of three of these worked like Trojans to make the Rummage Sale successful — the fourth being at Lake Tahoe for the summer (otherwise Big Birds might have had 100% representation). Exactly the same number of people owning single-seaters pitched in and helped, but there are 41 small Birds in the Club. It begins to appear that the really good members — those who get out and help and those who attend the events — very nearly got voted out last month in what would have been a terrible miscarriage of justice.

On the cheery side was the profit of approximately \$100 that was turned over to Treasurer Larry Farrell. While this sum may not be so large as you expected, still it represents a pretty fast 100 bucks to those of us who found some excuse for not helping.

The most heartfelt thanks of all should be accorded Bev and Dick Staples who conceived the idea and then worked like galley slaves to put it over. And thanks to the dozen or so faithful members who helped them make it a success.

PARADE OF LIGHTS

Jim Dunlavey, 1959 Chairman of the Parade of Lights, has selected BATOC to transport Football Princesses again this year. A most glamorous parade and the prettiest college seniors in the land will be our guests.

Though September is still far away, it's still nice to look forward to this event. We will want our own Club represented with a float and banner again as last year. We made quite a hit then.

We are committed for 20 cars to meet at San Francisco Airport to bring the young ladies to Berkeley. 9 a.m. on September 22. Then on Sept. 25 at 7 p.m. we will need 20 cars again for the gals, plus more cars for our own float and display. Keep in touch with your parade chairman.

— A. Horsfall

Drinking while driving is putting the quart before the bear.

TROUBLE GETTING PARTS?

Need a Bird part in a hurry? If we don't have it, we'll check the stock of every Ford dealer in the Bay Area. Finally, we wire Dearborn and you'll receive that critical part in one week or less. At a 25 to 32% discount, too! Call Reg. Montgomery, Parts Mgr., at MU 5-4451.



**HOWARD EDDY
MOTORS**

2395 WILLOW PASS ROAD
CONCORD, CALIFORNIA

MOTOR MELANGE . . .

We were all glad to see By and Paula Shideler come out of hibernation. The Anniversary Meeting on June 5th at "The Showboat" proved to be the big lure, but they promised to be in attendance at more events henceforth . . . The mysterious faces on Page 3 belong to Clo Bueno and Owen Lewis . . . Somebody ought to plan another sojourn to Mexico, as we continue to run across interesting material on our amicable amigos to the South which we'd love to print. The first trip fizzled when the intended travelers dropped out one by one. Could our treatises have hindered rather than helped? . . . The Happy Horsfalls feel just like young parents again. Their daughter, Helene Vredenburg, became a unipara (that's a woman who has had one kid, son — or vice versa) on June 1st when she introduced Barbara Lynn to a waiting world. The grandparents are just doing more than fine, thanks, and if any of you young whippersnappers would like pointers from experts on the application of three-cornered sarongs, drop by for free consultation . . . You think Andy has troubles? We once knew a fellow with lockjaw who got seasick . . . Dick Nagle was transferred to Lake Tahoe by the Coast Guard to patrol those waters for the summer. Knowing his predilection for Old King Sol, Jack Taylor had best look to his laurels in this suntan race.

MT. TAMALPAIS TOUR

It was a warm, sunny day — perfect for gamboling ala Thunderbirds along the highways and by-ways. Evidently many of you thought so, too, for 16 Birds and at least twice that many people made the trip to Mt. Tamalpais last Sunday. Dr. Frank Ficker planned this event thoroughly, making it himself beforehand, and then provided typed direction sheets so that no participant would become lost.

After leisurely lunch atop Mt. Tamalpais, the picnickers meandered on down to Stinson for a beautiful "day at the beach". Daresay many a red nose and forehead are in evidence today. Some of the more audacious souls even ventured 12 inches out into the bounding surf, the shark hazard notwithstanding.

Our "Birdland" plaque is hereby awarded Dr. Frank for a wonderfully well-arranged day!



"The only thing that will save us now is if you were going fast enough to put us in orbit."

LOST — ANOTHER CHARTER MEMBER

It's goodbye to popular Lela Mirgon who has disposed of her yaller '57 and departed this continent for North Africa. There she will do nurse duty in the American Embassy and generally lead the venturesome life which many of you (not me) yearn to lead but haven't the gumption to pursue. She'll be gone two long years, but promises to write and tell all in the meantime. We can scarcely wait to learn if she uses the forehand or backhand smash in manipulating a swatter in doing battle with the tsetse fly, or whether, with a profound bow toward science she disdains both in favor of an aerosol bomb.

NEW TRAFFIC REGULATION

A car caught in an intersection by a changing light has the right, even over pedestrians, to move on out of the intersection in order to clear it.

Letters



Dear Editor:

I was a complete bust until I joined the Thunderbird Club and began reading "Was iss los in Birdland."

(Sd) Joe White

Dear Editor:

I have sent you some jokes which you habitually fail to consider because you are a jerk in my book and not at all "NICE". You are certainly a horse's posterior and utterly no good at selecting suitable or interesting material to publish. Your skill at being stupid is incredible. Why don't you drop dead? If prizes are ever given to the biggest nincompoop in this Club you would certainly get my vote and win easily.

(Sd) Cosimo J. Twiddlepants

P.S. — If you decide to print any of my material this month, then read only every other line.

